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June 4, 2013

The Honorable Chairman Werfel
1111 Constitution Ave NW
Washington DC 20004

Dear Chairman Werfel,

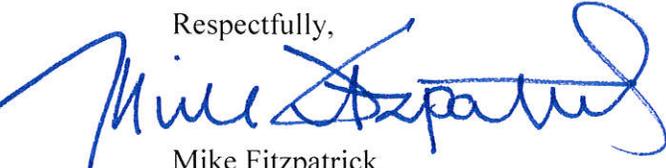
I represent the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the House of Representatives. Like many constituents in my district, I was highly disappointed by a recent report which indicated that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spent \$50 million of taxpayer dollars to hold over 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012. This report shines a light on a disturbing pattern of gross mismanagement at the IRS, and it severely undermines public trust in the federal government to carry out its duties efficiently. I respectfully urge you to make drastic changes to your agency to ensure that incidents such as this are not repeated. In addition, I also ask that you hold accountable those who are responsible for the total disregard of taxpayer dollars.

The recent report from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform points out a stunning waste of hard-earned taxpayer money. According to the report, the conference spending included \$4 million for an August 2010 meeting in Anaheim, California. The \$4 million included benefits to 2600 attendees who received baseball tickets and stays in presidential suites that usually range from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per night. Furthermore, fifteen outside speakers were paid \$135,000 dollars in fees, including one speaker who was paid \$17,000 to discuss "leadership through art." At a time when many Americans are cutting back on their personal expenditures to make ends meet, this type of lavish spending by the IRS is unacceptable and offensive.

The frivolous spending at the Anaheim conference in 2010 is just one instance of an ongoing trend of excessive spending at the IRS and throughout the federal government. In a time of fiscal restraint and tightening budgets it is incumbent on every agency to be more efficient and institute policies that encourage every department to cut costs. The government agency in charge of collecting taxes should be at the vanguard of protecting the public's money.

The IRS has a lot of work to do to restore any semblance of public trust. I strongly urge you and the agency to demonstrate better judgment and I look forward to your response regarding how the agency plans to be better stewards of the American people's money.

Respectfully,


Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress