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Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
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1 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The Committee on
2 Oversight and Government Reform will come to order.

3 Without objection, the Chair is
4 authorized to declare a recess at any time.

5 The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS,
6 perhaps no other agency, no other institution in
7 our government causes more fear, more concern, more
8 distress, or outright panic at the mere mention of
9 their name than the IRS.

10 Entanglement with the IRS is never good.
11 Most Americans work hard, pay their taxes, and just
12 want to live a life free of harassment. And most
13 of the IRS employees are good, decent,
14 hard-working, patriotic people doing a tough job
15 working for the government and are honest in their
16 dealings. But, unfortunately, not all of them.

17 Nearly two years ago, the Treasury
18 Inspector General for Tax Administration, often
19 referred to as "TIGTA," did an audit that confirmed
20 what many on this committee had feared and heard:
21 The IRS was targeting and delaying the applications
22 for 501(c)(4) status of conservative nonprofit

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1 organizations because of their political beliefs.
2 The IRS was on the lookout for applications that
3 focused on the national debt, quote, "criticized
4 how the country was run," end quote, or that sought
5 to educate the public on how to, quote, "make
6 America a better place to live," unquote.

7 These were conservatives trying to play
8 by the rules, but some in the IRS didn't want them
9 in the game. They didn't even want them to have a
10 voice.

11 When it was first revealed that the IRS
12 was targeting Americans and suppressing their First
13 Amendment rights because of their political
14 beliefs, President Obama said this, quote, "If, in
15 fact, IRS personnel engaged in the kind of
16 practices that have been reported on, and were
17 intentionally targeting conservative groups, then
18 that's outrageous and there's no place for it, and
19 they have to be held fully accountable. Because
20 the IRS, as an independent agency, requires
21 absolute integrity, and the people have to have
22 confidence that they are applying the laws in a

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1 nonpartisan way," end quote.

2 I agree with the President. He was
3 absolutely and totally right.

4 But sometime right before the Super Bowl
5 rolled around, before any of the investigations
6 were complete, the President concluded there was,
7 quote, "not even a smidgen of corruption," end
8 quote. I have no idea how the President came to
9 such a definitive conclusion without all the facts,
10 but he obviously sent a signal as to how he would
11 like this to be concluded.

12 On the one hand, the President has come
13 to a conclusion, and, on the other hand, there's an
14 ongoing investigation by the Inspector General and
15 the Department of Justice.

16 But Congress has a role. As the new
17 chairman of the committee, I thought it would be
18 appropriate to get an update on the investigation
19 from the Inspector General. I want us to focus on
20 the facts, wherever they may lead us.

21 And, thus far, the IRS, and specifically
22 its Commissioner, has given us a lot of different

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1 answers to some fairly simple questions.

2 The Oversight Committee subpoenaed the
3 IRS in August of 2013 seeking emails from Lois
4 Lerner, as well as others involved in the
5 targeting. Months later, we did not have all the
6 Lois Lerner emails.

7 In an Oversight hearing on March 26,
8 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified under oath
9 that he had all the emails and he would produce all
10 the emails.

11 Yet, on June 13, 2014, the IRS sent a
12 letter to the Senate Finance stating a multiyear
13 tranche of Lois Lerner's emails had been destroyed.
14 A June 13, 2014, letter sent to Senate Finance
15 said, quote, "IRS confirmed the backup tapes from
16 2011 no longer exist because they've been recycled
17 pursuant to the IRS normal policy," end quote.

18 June 20, 2014, before Ways and Means,
19 Chairman Camp said, quote, "Your letter describes
20 the Lois Lerner emails as being unrecoverable," end
21 quote. Commissioner Koskinen, quote, "Correct,"
22 end quote.

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1 February 11, 2015, in an Oversight
2 hearing, Mr. DeSantis of Florida says, quote, "You
3 made the effort. You were not cavalier about this.
4 You made the effort to find what the committee
5 wanted," end quote. Mr. Koskinen, quote, "Yes,"
6 end quote.

7 The IRS Commissioner has said they went
8 to, quote, "great lengths" and made extraordinary
9 efforts to recover the emails. This is but a small
10 sampling of the Commissioner's definitive and
11 precise statements about the missing emails. Yet I
12 believe what we will hear this evening is far
13 different than we were led to believe.

14 To the men and women in the Inspector
15 General office, we cannot thank you enough for your
16 hard work, the long days that you're working to get
17 the information to the American public and for this
18 committee.

19 We look ultimately to reading the final
20 report, but it is appropriate to give an update
21 today, and so we appreciate you being here.

22 With that, I will yield back and

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1 recognize the gentleman from Maryland, the ranking
2 member, Mr. Cummings.

3 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you very much, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 I want to take a moment to commend you
6 for the way the committee has been running since
7 you became Chairman. You have shown tremendous
8 respect for our side, and I really appreciate that.
9 And that goes not only for you, but your staff, and
10 I appreciate everything that they've done to work
11 with us. Everyone notices the more collegial and
12 collaborative atmosphere on our committee, and that
13 is due to your efforts and the tone you have set.

14 Mr. Chairman, there are certainly issues
15 we're going to disagree on, and today's hearing is
16 one of those issues. But we take your words to
17 heart, and we will disagree without being
18 disagreeable.

19 With respect to today's hearing, I
20 believe it is premature. Two days ago, Mr. Camus,
21 who will be testifying in a few moments with the
22 Inspector General, told our staff, said their

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1 investigation is not finished. That their report
2 is not done, and that they will not be able to
3 fully answer many of the questions members have at
4 this time.

5 He provided our staffs with some
6 information about the status of their efforts to
7 recover additional emails from Ms. Lerner, but he
8 cautioned us not to discuss those details publicly
9 while their investigation's still ongoing. Based
10 on this request, it seems that the best course of
11 action would be to have the Inspector General come
12 back when his report is complete so that we can
13 discuss it fully.

14 Nevertheless, since we are here, I will
15 make just three points.

16 First, according to the Inspector
17 General's previous work, the emails that were lost
18 when Ms. Lerner's hard drive crashed were from
19 before Ms. Lerner discovered that inappropriate
20 criteria was being used by IRS employees in
21 Cincinnati. Ms. Lerner's computer crashed on
22 June 13th, 2011, but she was not informed until

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1 June 29th, 2011, that IRS employees were using
2 inappropriate criteria to screen tax-exempt
3 applicants. That is according to a report issued
4 by the Inspector General in May of 2013, more than
5 a year and a half ago.

6 According to the same report, after Ms.
7 Lerner discovered what was going on, she, and I
8 quote, "immediately directed that the criteria be
9 changed," end of quote.

10 Second, the Inspector General has
11 identified no evidence to us that the White House
12 directed this activity. Despite many claims by
13 Republicans, there is simply no evidence, after
14 nearly two years of investigating, to support this
15 wholly unsubstantiated conspiracy theory.

16 Third, the Inspector General has
17 identified no evidence to us that Ms. Lerner
18 intentionally crashed her computer. To the
19 contrary, all of the evidence we have obtained,
20 including contemporaneous emails sent at the time,
21 indicates that her computer crashed due to
22 technological problems. And nothing we have

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1 learned since the Inspector General issued his
2 previous report contradicts these findings.

3 We have also learned nothing since that
4 time to contradict the account of the
5 self-described, quote, "conservative Republican,"
6 end of quote, screening group manager in
7 Cincinnati, who was interviewed by this committee
8 on June 6, 2013. He stated that he and his
9 employees were motivated only by a desire to
10 efficiently group a large number of similar cases
11 rather than by any political bias.

12 Let me conclude by putting some
13 additional facts on the record.

14 Today's hearing is the 21st hearing our
15 committee has held on these issues. This is the
16 fourth time the Inspector General has testified
17 before us on this subject. The Commissioner of the
18 IRS, Mr. Koskinen, has testified before us six
19 times on these topics, not counting many additional
20 appearances before other committees.

21 This committee has conducted more than 50
22 transcribed witness interviews on these issues.

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1 The IRS has produced more than one million pages of
2 documents on this topic. At its peak, the IRS had
3 more than 250 employees responding to these
4 inquiries, and they dedicated more than 150,000
5 hours of work effort to address our concerns.

6 At the end of last year, the IRS reported
7 spending approximately \$20 million responding to
8 congressional inquiries. Twenty million dollars is
9 an enormous amount of money. That total does not
10 include the amounts we've spent here on this
11 committee. It does not include the amounts
12 numerous other committees have been spent.

13 And so I conclude by saying it does not
14 include the amounts other agencies have spent,
15 including Department of Justice, the Federal
16 Elections Commission, or the Securities and
17 Exchange Commission. And it does not include the
18 amounts the Inspector General has spent and
19 continues to spend to this day.

20 Going forward, it is my sincere hope that
21 we will work in a bipartisan manner on hearings
22 that further our shared goals of benefiting the

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1 American people.

2 And, with that, I yield back.

3 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you. I'll hold
4 the record open for five legislative days for any
5 member who would like to submit a written
6 statement.

7 We'll now recognize our panel of
8 witnesses. Pleased to welcome the Honorable J.
9 Russell George, Inspector General with the Treasury
10 Inspector General for Tax Administration; and Mr.
11 Tim Camus, Deputy Inspector General for
12 Investigations with the Treasury Inspector General
13 for Tax Administration. We welcome you both.

14 Pursuant to committee rules, all
15 witnesses will be sworn before they testify. If
16 will please rise about raise your right hands.

17 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
18 testimony you are about to give will be the truth,
19 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

20 Thank you. You may be seated.

21 Let the record reflect that all witnesses answered
22 in the affirmative.

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1 We understand you may have one statement,
2 as opposed to two five-minutes, so we'll be very
3 generous on your time. Feel free to take as much
4 time as you need to make this -- understanding that
5 there will be one opening statement.

6 MR. GEORGE: Well, actually, I have a
7 very brief opening statement, and then will defer
8 to Mr. Camus.

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ. Very good. Please
10 proceed.

11 MR. GEORGE: Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking
12 Member Cummings, Members of the Committee, at the
13 committee's request, we're here to discuss the
14 progress of our efforts to recover former IRS
15 Exempt Organization Unit Director Lois Lerner's
16 missing emails.

17 With me, again, is Deputy Inspector
18 General for Investigations Tim Camus, who is
19 leading TIGTA's efforts into this matter, which was
20 requested by the Senate Finance Committee.

21 Our objective this evening is to provide
22 you with as much information as possible on the

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1 progress of our email recovery efforts, without
2 compromising the integrity of our ongoing
3 investigation into the circumstances surrounding
4 the IRS's losses of data and hard drive crashes.

5 Tonight's testimony is a snapshot of what
6 we know today. Given an email recovery undertaking
7 such as this, it is important to note that the
8 facts and status may frequently change as we
9 perform further analysis of data and conduct
10 additional interviews.

11 As a result, I ask that you understand
12 that our testimony this evening is a progress
13 report. We have not reached any conclusions, and
14 the information we provide today may, in fact,
15 change before we complete our ongoing
16 investigation.

17 And, with that, I will now turn to
18 Mr. Camus to provide a detailed discussion on the
19 progress of our search for the missing emails.

20 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you.

21 Mr. Camus.

22 MR. CAMUS: Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking

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1 Member Cummings, and Members of the Full Committee,
2 I've been requested to come here today to provide
3 an update on my agency's efforts thus far in
4 attempting to recover the missing emails of former
5 IRS employee Lois Lerner.

6 On June 13th, 2014, in a letter to the
7 Senate Finance Committee, the IRS reported that as
8 it was completing its document production for
9 Congress concerning allegations that the IRS
10 targeted certain 501(c)(4) applicants, the IRS
11 realized that the production of the emails of
12 Lois Lerner, the former Director of IRS Exempt
13 Organizations Division, had gaps in the email
14 production.

15 The IRS reported computer suffered a hard
16 drive crash, and therefore, some of her emails
17 could not be recovered.

18 The following Monday, on June 16th, 2014,
19 TIGTA initiated an investigation -- the Senate
20 Finance Committee that requested TIGTA to formally
21 investigate the matter, including to, quote,
22 "perform its own analysis of whether

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1 any data can be salvaged and produced to the
2 committee," unquote.

3 The circumstances surrounding the loss of
4 data, the hard drive crash, and the manner in which
5 IRS handled its electronic media are still under
6 investigation. However, we have periodically
7 updated certain committees of Congress, including
8 this committee, concerning our progress in
9 recovering emails. But we have not discussed the
10 investigation itself.

11 There are two parts of our mission here.
12 One part is attempting to recover the emails, and
13 the second part is to investigate the circumstances
14 surrounding the missing email.

15 Until the investigation is completed, the
16 facts and circumstances, as we understand them, can
17 and have changed on a daily basis. To avoid
18 speculating and reaching conclusions that later
19 turn out to be false, as investigators, we avoid
20 drawing any conclusions until all of the facts are
21 in. I owe it to the American people to ensure that
22 we continue to thoroughly and impartially

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1 investigate this matter, gathering all of the facts
2 and evidence in order to get to the truth.

3 That said, at this time, I cannot provide
4 any information on the investigation surrounding
5 the IRS's loss of the data and hard drive crash, as
6 that could negatively impact our ability to
7 complete the investigation, as well as raise
8 questions into the integrity of our investigative
9 process. But, at this time, I will provide a
10 progress report on our efforts to recover missing
11 emails.

12 The IRS manages its email for its 91,000
13 employees by routing the email through Microsoft
14 Exchange Servers that are backed up periodically
15 using backup tapes. These Microsoft Exchange
16 Servers are also referred to as email servers, are
17 comprised of hundreds of hard drives that are
18 placed into server racks.

19 Up until May 2011, the email server that
20 handled Lois Lerner's email traffic was located in
21 New Carrollton, Maryland, Federal Building. During
22 2011, the IRS migrated from the email server at New

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1 Carrollton to a new email server located at the
2 IRS's Martinsburg, West Virginia, Computing Center.
3 After the IRS migrated its email system to
4 Martinsburg, the IRS turned off the email server at
5 New Carrollton. However, the server was left in
6 place, possibly as a precautionary measure, should
7 the new email servers at Martinsburg fail. IRS
8 employees reported that the New Carrollton email
9 server hard drives were later removed from the
10 server, erased and destroyed.

11 On June 30th, 2014, TIGTA demanded that
12 the IRS provide all backup tapes used to back up
13 Ms. Lerner's IRS email account, specifically, all
14 backup tapes used for emails during the time period
15 of January 1st, 2008, through December 31st, 2011.
16 These date ranges were selected to ensure that we
17 obtained any overlap emails or accounted for
18 midyear equipment changes.

19 As a result of this demand, on July 1st,
20 2014, the IRS identified the 744 backup tapes that
21 met this criterion, and TIGTA took possession of
22 all of the identified 744 backup tapes.

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1 With regard to nine of the 744 backup
2 tapes, based on how they were configured in the
3 backup machine, the IRS was unable to determine the
4 dates they were used. Because of this, IRS
5 technicians believed it was possible that these
6 nine tapes had been untouched for years and, thus,
7 could contain clear data relevant to the
8 investigation.

9 Because TIGTA did not have the unique and
10 necessary hardware, these nine tapes were provided
11 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to
12 determine if the tapes contained any data and, if
13 they did, to retrieve it. After the FBI analyzed
14 the nine tapes and validated their equipment by
15 reviewing other random backup tapes, they reported
16 their equipment was functioning properly and they
17 reported the nine tapes were, in fact, blank.

18 TIGTA then provided those same nine tapes
19 to a recognized industry leader on electronic data
20 recovery, and they confirmed the nine tapes were,
21 in fact, blank.

22 After confirming these initial nine tapes

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1 were blank and fearing that the remaining 735 tapes
2 were overwritten, TIGTA interviewed the IRS email
3 expert and identified the specific backup tapes
4 that would have contained the earliest copies of
5 Lois Lerner's email box.

6 The backup tapes consisted of five sets
7 of tapes. These five backup sets were created
8 sequential weeks from November 20th, 2012, through
9 December 25th of 2012. The five backup sets were
10 expected to produce a total of five separate copies
11 of Lois Lerner's email boxes or one copy for each
12 week of the backup.

13 We hand carried three of the five sets of
14 these backup tapes to the industry expert for data
15 recovery and extraction, and, after their
16 examination and extraction of data, they provided
17 TIGTA with the Exchange database files from this
18 set of tapes.

19 On November 13th of 2014, TIGTA searched
20 the database files and identified the first
21 Lois Lerner email box. This email box contained
22 Lois Lerner emails that date back as far as 2001.

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1 The result of this effort validated that the tapes
2 have not been overwritten, and they contained
3 emails that are relevant to the requested time
4 range search for emails.

5 TIGTA then processed the remaining five
6 backup sets for a -- the relevant requested -- I'm
7 sorry. TIGTA then processed the remaining sets of
8 backup tapes in the same manner, later finding that
9 each of the five backup sets contained one
10 Lois Lerner email box, for a total of five email
11 boxes, exactly as expected.

12 At the conclusion of this process, TIGTA
13 identified 79,840 Lois Lerner emails, of which
14 almost 60 percent were duplicates. Removing the
15 duplicates resulted in 32,774 Lois Lerner unique
16 emails.

17 It is critically important to note that
18 these 32,774 emails need to be compared with the
19 emails and documents the IRS has already produced
20 to Congress in order to determine if there are any
21 newly identified emails. Currently, we are
22 finalizing the procurement of the software to

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1 accomplish this match.

2 As I noted earlier in my testimony, the
3 IRS email system routes email messages through
4 email servers that are comprised of hundreds of
5 hard drives.

6 I just completed my testimony about the
7 status of our examination of the backup tapes
8 associated with the email system, and now I want to
9 discuss the status of the hard drives that were in
10 the email server in May 2011, one month prior to
11 when Lois Lerner's laptop hard drive crashed.

12 On July 11th of 2014, TIGTA discovered
13 that the hard drives from the decommissioned New
14 Carrollton email server were not destroyed as
15 previously reported by the IRS. On the same day,
16 TIGTA secured the 760 hard drives that are believed
17 to be part of the old New Carrollton email server.

18 TIGTA conducted a preliminary examination
19 of the limited selection of hard drives and we
20 determined that, based on the information that
21 could be seen from these hard drives, these drives
22 are more than likely the email server drives that

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1 processed Lois Lerner's emails in 2011 and prior.

2 It is important to note that the email
3 servers process and keep copies of email traffic on
4 hundreds of drives that are specifically positioned
5 in server racks. The IRS did not retain a copy of
6 the layout indicating where each of the specific
7 hard drives was positioned in the racks. Finding
8 any -- without understanding the exact order in
9 which the hard drives were placed in the server
10 racks, finding any complete and relevant emails
11 would be very difficult and labor intensive, if not
12 impossible. In addition, if any of the hard drives
13 are damaged, it could potentially be impossible to
14 recover any useable emails.

15 We recently determined that we were
16 unable to do anything further with the hard drives,
17 and we have initiated the process to contract for
18 an initial feasibility analysis of the 760 hard
19 drives by a recognized industry expert in
20 electronic data recovery.

21 Less than two weeks ago, we also learned
22 that there may have been backup tapes older than

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1 the original 744 backup tapes we obtained in July
2 of 2014. We have taken possession of an additional
3 424 tapes, and we are in the early stages of
4 understanding if they have been erased, and if any
5 of these older tapes contain emails or data of
6 interest to the investigation.

7 In summary, to date, we have found 32,774
8 unique emails that were backed up from Lois
9 Lerner's email box. We are in the process of
10 comparing these emails to what the IRS has already
11 produced to Congress to determine if we did, in
12 fact, recover any new emails. We also are in the
13 process of having the email server hard drives
14 analyzed to determine if there are any readable
15 emails that can be recovered from these hard
16 drives.

17 And, finally, we are continuing to
18 determine if there are any other sources that may
19 contain Lois Lerner emails.

20 As I noted earlier, this is an ongoing
21 investigation, and I have provided the information
22 that I believe will not hinder our ability to

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1 continue our investigation, while simultaneously
2 providing the Congress with the progress on the
3 email search.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you. I'll now
6 recognize myself for five minutes.

7 Mr. Camus, from the time you started to
8 try to find the tapes that contained the emails,
9 how long did it actually take you to find them?

10 MR. CAMUS: We started the process when
11 we opened the investigation. We obtained the
12 backup tapes June 30th. And by November 13, I
13 believe it was, was the first time we saw Lois
14 Lerner emails.

15 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: But from the time you
16 sought to go find the emails to the time -- the
17 tapes to the time you actually got to the place in
18 West Virginia, how long did that take?

19 MR. CAMUS: Literally about two weeks.

20 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: So, despite
21 everything that the IRS said, from the time you
22 started to the time you found them was about two

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1 weeks.

2 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

3 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: When you showed up
4 and talked to the IT people and said, well, what's
5 happened here, what did they tell you?

6 MR. CAMUS: They cooperated and answered
7 our questions fully.

8 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Had anybody ever
9 asked them for the tapes?

10 MR. CAMUS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: So we send a
12 subpoena. We send letters. We have hearings. We
13 hear all kinds of excuses from the IRS. They can't
14 have them. They're recycled. They've been
15 destroyed. They're not available. We can't
16 find -- I mean, every excuse you can have under the
17 sun. You start. You find them in two weeks. And
18 then when you go talk to the IT people who are
19 there in charge of them, they told you that
20 they were never even asked for them; is that
21 correct?

22 MR. CAMUS: That's correct.

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1 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Are there potentially
2 even more tapes?

3 MR. CAMUS: Well, we believe there may be
4 additional tapes that we just learned of two weeks
5 ago.

6 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Are you investigating
7 any potential criminal activity?

8 MR. CAMUS: The entire matter continues
9 to be under active investigation, yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: For potential
11 criminal activity?

12 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The IRS first knew
14 that there were problems with the emails back in
15 February of 2014, didn't they?

16 MR. CAMUS: I believe that's -- that's
17 correct.

18 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: By April of 2014,
19 they had concluded that they had a problem on their
20 hands. But it wasn't until June of 2014 that TIGTA
21 actually became aware that there were problems,
22 correct?

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1 MR. CAMUS: That is right.

2 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: And I guess that's
3 part of what my colleagues need to understand here,
4 is that the IRS knew that there were problems back
5 in February of 2014, but it wasn't until June of
6 2014 that they actually started to let Congress and
7 TIGTA know, despite what the IRS Commissioner told
8 us. He told us we were given full cooperation.
9 Mr. Koskinen said, quote, "We confirmed the backup
10 tapes from 2011 no longer existed because they have
11 been recycled," end quote.

12 Is that true or false?

13 MR. CAMUS: We're looking at two
14 populations of tapes. So there was some confusion
15 for them. When we asked for the initial set of
16 tapes with the date ranges, they provided the 744
17 tapes. We believed those were the tapes. We found
18 the new population of tapes literally two weeks
19 ago. We believe those were the 2011 tapes.

20 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Chairman Camp asked
21 at one point, quote, "Your letter describes the
22 Lois Lerner emails as being unrecoverable," end

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1 quote. Commissioner Koskinen responds, "Correct."

2 The Lois Lerner emails are ultimately
3 recoverable, aren't they? At least a portion of
4 them.

5 MR. CAMUS: We recovered quite a number
6 of emails, but until we compare those to what's
7 already been produced, we don't know if they're new
8 emails.

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: We -- I got to tell
10 you, I -- we have been patient. We have asked. We
11 have issued subpoenas. We have held hearings; the
12 Ways and Means, Senate Finance, House Oversight and
13 Government Reform. It's just shocking to me that
14 you start, two weeks later, you're able to find the
15 emails, you go and talk to the people who are in
16 charge of this, and nobody even asked them for the
17 tapes?

18 I've got to tell you, I really do
19 appreciate the great work that you are doing on
20 this. You know, the Ranking Member, I've got the
21 greatest respect for him. And he cited some
22 statistics that I believe were given to him by --

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1 by the IRS; 250 employees and thousands of hours
2 and all this. But the one thing that we're trying
3 to get to, and nobody even asked them for it.
4 Didn't even ask.

5 I'll yield back.

6 I recognize the Ranking Member.

7 MR. CUMMINGS: Go to Mr. Connolly.

8 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Oh, my apologies.

9 We're going to recognize the gentleman from
10 Virginia, Mr. Connolly, for five minutes.

11 MR. CONNOLLY: I thank the Chair, and I
12 thank the Ranking Member.

13 And, boy, can I relate to your
14 frustration, Mr. Chairman, asking for a document
15 and not being given to it. Why, Mr. Cartwright and
16 I have asked for a simple document from Mr. George
17 himself.

18 Mr. George, on February 5th, 2014, we
19 filed a complaint against you with the Integrity
20 Committee of the Council of IGs, raising serious
21 concerns over the troubling activities of your
22 office under your leadership: Publishing

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1 incomplete and misleading findings, engaging in
2 partisan activities, meeting solely with
3 Republicans on this committee, excluding Democrats,
4 and allowing it to determine the scope of your
5 audit.

6 On September 17th, I requested a copy of
7 your response to the contents raised in our letter.
8 September 17th, five months ago. The next day,
9 your counsel assured our staff in an email you
10 would respond to the request. To this date, you
11 have not responded to the request.

12 I really sympathize with the Chairman's
13 frustration of not getting documents. We didn't
14 subpoena you, but your office assured us we'd get a
15 copy. Where is that -- where is the copy of your
16 response to our complaint before the Integrity
17 Committee of CIGIE?

18 MR. GEORGE: As you know, sir, the
19 Integrity Committee of the CIGIE is operated -- is
20 led by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. And
21 it is my understanding that you or your staff have
22 reached out to the FBI, requesting the materials

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1 that you cited. My understanding is the FBI
2 refused to provide you with that information
3 because that is their policy. And that's my
4 understanding, sir.

5 MR. CONNOLLY. Actually --

6 MR. GEORGE: As of today, sir, I have not
7 received a written request from you or from this
8 committee requesting that I waive my Privacy Right
9 Act -- my Privacy Act rights.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: Let me make two points to
11 that, Mr. George.

12 First of all, with respect to your
13 privacy rights, let me quote from the Integrity
14 Committee of CIGIE with respect to privacy. Quote,
15 "We are not presently aware of a restriction
16 imposed by the Privacy Act to provide one's own
17 response," unquote.

18 Secondly, your staff indicated by email
19 you would be responsive five months ago.
20 Now, if you need a written request from Mr.
21 Cartwright and myself, I've asked my staff to
22 present it to you right now.

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1 MR. GEORGE: Well --

2 MR. CONNOLLY: Here is a written request
3 that we are asking for a simple document, your
4 response to our complaint before CIGIE --

5 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The gentleman will
6 share that document with the Chair, please.

7 MR. CONNOLLY: Happy to do so,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Do that now, please.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: But, I mean, we can't have
11 it both ways in this committee. We can't be
12 complaining about the fact that IRS, having
13 provided tens of thousands of documents, hasn't
14 provided every little thing we want. Fine. And
15 we're willing to subpoena, and we're willing to
16 waive Fifth Amendment rights and everything else,
17 when the TIGTA himself has not provided a copy, a
18 simple document, your response to our complaint.
19 We think we're entitled to it.

20 You want a written request? You've got
21 it, Mr. George.

22 MR. GEORGE: And I would just note, I'll

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1 take this under advisement with my counsel, but I
2 should point out that the FBI conducted its review
3 of the Integrity Committee, and it exonerated
4 myself and my organization.

5 MR. CONNOLLY: We know nothing about an
6 exoneration.

7 And, for the record, Mr. Cartwright and I
8 are going to resubmit the complaint, because the
9 response we got was so bureaucratic and inadequate
10 in one paragraph. And because you were
11 unresponsive, we feel we have to reopen this
12 investigation and ask the new chairman of CIGIE to
13 cooperate with us. And we're going to do that.
14 We're going to pursue that, Mr. George.

15 We feel you can't -- if you're the
16 guardian of IRS documents and you yourself are the
17 subject of an investigation or a complaint and you
18 won't provide one document, what standing have you
19 got to advise this committee about how we retrieve
20 or capture documents we're seeking?

21 MR. GEORGE: Well, Mr. Connolly, I'm not
22 going to engage in a debate with you here, but

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1 there's certain information you're not going to be
2 able to receive access to related to this
3 investigation pursuant to Title 26, Section 6103 of
4 the United States Code.

5 MR. CONNOLLY: Yes.

6 MR. GEORGE: And so, once the
7 investigation is completed, you will receive a
8 conclusion, the Congress will receive a conclusion.
9 And there are certain committees in Congress that
10 do have access to that information. They will
11 receive the materials. But --

12 MR. CONNOLLY: We look forward to it, Mr.
13 George.

14 MR. GEORGE: So just as it --

15 MR. CONNOLLY: I've been waiting for over
16 five months.

17 MR. GEORGE: Just as it relates to an
18 investigation of me and my organization, you're not
19 entitled to certain documents.

20 MR. CONNOLLY: Oh, really?

21 MR. GEORGE. That's correct.

22 MR. CONNOLLY: Well, we'll see about

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1 that, won't we, Mr. George?

2 MR. GEORGE: Your prerogative, sir.

3 MR. CONNOLLY: Yes, it is.

4 I yield back.

5 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

6 Recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr.

7 Mica, for five minutes.

8 MR. MICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
9 thank you for following up.

10 It looks like we've been lied to or at
11 least misled. As recently as February 11th,
12 Commissioner Koskinen, the IRS Commissioner, came
13 before us again, and he repeatedly stated that the
14 emails were not recoverable. Now, they have known
15 for some time that some of these were recoverable.

16 Is that correct, Mr. George?

17 MR. GEORGE: I'm going to defer to
18 Mr. Camus for that, sir.

19 MR. MICA: Is that true?

20 MR. CAMUS: Mr. Mica, I'm -- I don't know
21 what they knew and when they knew it. The only
22 thing I know is that, as our investigators followed

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1 the trail, we were able to determine a number of
2 emails. We have yet to compare them to what's
3 already been produced.

4 MR. MICA: Well, the IRS consistently
5 stated from June 2nd, 2014, when Cate Duval
6 identified the problem, till June 13, 2014, in a
7 letter to the Finance Committee that the agency did
8 everything possible to recover the emails.
9 But, in the meantime, you started your recovery
10 when? -- 2014?

11 MR. CAMUS: June in 2014, yes, sir.

12 MR. MICA: June of 2014. Were they --
13 have they been made aware at all that there was
14 some recovery underway?

15 MR. CAMUS: They've been provided this
16 similar information to what --

17 MR. MICA: They've been provided similar
18 information, and yet, since then, they've been
19 coming to us and most recently said, our experts
20 said we had no way, they were unrecoverable.
21 That wouldn't be a statement of fact. They knew
22 otherwise, did they not?

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1 MR. CAMUS: It would appear so.

2 MR. MICA: Okay. The other thing, too,
3 is, okay, you've found 32,000. We've been provided
4 24,000. And I understand we got those from other
5 sources, other employees, not from the tapes.
6 And you found 32,000, did you say?

7 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir.

8 MR. MICA: Okay. So that means there's
9 at least 8,000 we -- more than likely haven't seen.
10 You haven't turned any of those over to us yet,
11 have you?

12 MR. CAMUS: No, sir. We still have to
13 match --

14 MR. MICA: Okay. What is the process of
15 getting those to us? You said you've got a
16 software company to -- to help separate them. What
17 would you estimate the time frame?

18 MR. CAMUS: Well, we're hoping to get the
19 software at any time. Once we do that, we don't
20 anticipate more than a week for the match to occur.

21 MR. MICA: So you can get us -- so there
22 are about -- I would -- I mean, this is simple

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1 math. There are about 8,000, wouldn't you say,
2 that we probably wouldn't have access, because
3 you've got -- or we've got 24, you've got 32.

4 In addition, you said now you've found
5 2011 tapes two weeks ago. Is that correct?

6 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir.

7 MR. MICA: What kind of volume you think
8 you got there? What would a tape have? Any idea
9 of the emails? Has that been looked at at all?

10 MR. CAMUS: The tapes are -- vary in size
11 due to how much is compacted on them, so it's very
12 difficult to tell. One of the first things we have
13 to determine about the new population of tapes is
14 if they, in fact, have been erased. So it may be
15 possible to --

16 MR. MICA: And you've found some tapes
17 have been erased that you cited in your testimony
18 of the ones that you were given in the previous
19 batch?

20 MR. CAMUS: There were some blank tapes
21 in the initial batch.

22 MR. MICA: Were they erased, or were they

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1 blank?

2 MR. CAMUS: That is impossible to
3 determine.

4 MR. MICA: It is. So we know that there
5 are some tapes that either were blank or made
6 blank, right?

7 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

8 MR. MICA: Or erased?

9 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

10 MR. MICA: Okay. And, again, how long
11 will it take you to process the new tapes to get to
12 us, do you think?

13 MR. CAMUS: We just started the process,
14 and we're trying to understand if -- if there's
15 any -- if they -- if there's any data on them at
16 all. There are 424 of them, and we're going to
17 start with sample sizes.

18 MR. MICA: Four hun -- did you say 424?

19 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir.

20 MR. MICA: Holy Moses. Because the other
21 was 700 --

22 MR. CAMUS: 744.

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1 MR. MICA: And that produced the 32,774.
2 So there's -- there could be a good volume of tapes
3 that have never been seen with -- I mean, there are
4 a volume of tapes never seen, but they could
5 contained a volume of emails never been seen. Is
6 that possible?

7 MR. CAMUS: It is possible.

8 MR. MICA: Okay.

9 MR. CAMUS: It's important to note
10 that -- that the total number of emails, 39,744,
11 again, that some of them could be have already been
12 produced --

13 MR. MICA: Yeah.

14 MR. CAMUS: -- and some of them are
15 earlier than the time frame in question.

16 MR. MICA: Well, Mr. Chairman, too, what
17 concerns me is witnesses have come before us from
18 IRS and have denied that -- that the -- some of
19 these things existed, denied that they had
20 knowledge. And I think that they have misled or
21 lied to the committee, and I think that should be
22 taken under advice of counsel.

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1 Yield back.

2 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

3 I now recognize the gentlewoman from New
4 York, Ms. Maloney, for five minutes.

5 MS. MALONEY: I thank the witnesses and
6 the Chairman and the Ranking Member for calling
7 this hearing.

8 Mr. Camus, I would like to walk through
9 how you found these additional emails and clarify
10 exactly what they might contain. Originally, there
11 were reports that there were 80,000 new Lois Lerner
12 emails, but now you're saying that the number is
13 closer to 32,000. So can you explain how the
14 number went from 80,000 to 32,000?

15 MR. CAMUS: Yes, ma'am. It went from
16 80 -- 80,000 to 32,000 because we removed
17 duplicates. The five -- the five email sets that
18 we have were backups, one week after the other. So
19 there was a high number of -- 60 percent of them
20 were duplicates of each other. So if you took the
21 80,000 total and you took out the 60 percent that
22 were duplicates, that give us the subset.

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1 MS. MALONEY: Duplicates of the 80,000?

2 MR. CAMUS: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. MALONEY: So they're just duplicates
4 of the 80,000?

5 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

6 MS. MALONEY: Okay. So, to be clear,
7 these 32,000 emails are what remained after your
8 office removed all these duplicates from the batch
9 of 80,000?

10 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

11 MS. MALONEY: Well, now -- now, thousands
12 of emails from Mrs. Lerner were already provided to
13 the committee by the IRS; is that correct?

14 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

15 MS. MALONEY: And do you know how many of
16 these 32,000 emails have already been produced to
17 this committee?

18 MR. CAMUS: That is a step in the process
19 that we have yet to take, but we plan on taking it
20 as soon as we can get the available software.

21 MS. MALONEY: So is it possible that some
22 of these 32,000 emails have already been provided

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1 to the committee?

2 MR. CAMUS: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. MALONEY: So they could actually
4 already be in your files and they're for everybody
5 to review?

6 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

7 MS. MALONEY: So how long is it going to
8 take to do this matching process to find out if, in
9 fact, there's any new material?

10 MR. CAMUS: We are going to do it as soon
11 as we can get our hands on the software.

12 MS. MALONEY: So how long do you think
13 it's going to last?

14 MR. CAMUS: We've been anxiously waiting.
15 We ordered the software in December --

16 MS. MALONEY: Uh-huh.

17 MR. CAMUS: -- and we're in negotiations
18 with the vendor to obtain it.

19 MS. MALONEY: And once you get the
20 software, how long is it going to take to --

21 MR. CAMUS: We're hoping it will only --
22 it will take a week.

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1 MS. MALONEY: A week. Okay. And so, as
2 I understand it from your testimony here today, you
3 are unable to confirm whether there are any, to use
4 your own words, "new emails," right?

5 MR. CAMUS: That's correct.

6 MS. MALONEY: So what's before us may be
7 material you already have, right?

8 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

9 MS. MALONEY: So may I ask, why are we
10 here?

11 Mr. George, why are we at a hearing at
12 8 o'clock at night on something which may not be
13 any new material at all? And we're not even
14 talking about content. We've got to decide whether
15 this is something that's already there. You
16 already threw out 60 percent of the 80,000, down to
17 32,000, because it was exactly the same thing.
18 So why are we here?

19 MR. GEORGE: Is that a rhetorical
20 question, Ms. --

21 MS. MALONEY: No. No, seriously. I
22 mean, what new material do you have?

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1 MR. GEORGE: Well, it is important to
2 keep Congress informed as to the status of the
3 investigation. And so it was at the request of the
4 Chairman that we are -- are before you this
5 evening.

6 MS. MALONEY: So it was not your idea to
7 have a hearing at 8 o'clock at night on material
8 that may already be in your office. And, once you
9 match it, it may be no material -- new material at
10 all, right?

11 MR. GEORGE: That is correct.

12 MS. MALONEY: Well, I would say that that
13 clearly fits the definition of premature or a waste
14 of time. Would you agree?

15 MR. GEORGE: I'm not going to --

16 MS. MALONEY: All right. I know. I
17 know. But I want to be clear. You cannot even
18 begin to draw any conclusions about the contents or
19 any possible implications that might have on this
20 investigation at this time because you don't even
21 know if you have any new material; is that correct?
22 You don't even know if it's any new material. It's

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1 just a rerun of what may already just be in your
2 office, like the 60 percent that you threw out of
3 the 80,000 emails.

4 I want to thank you for testifying today.
5 My time has expired.

6 I would -- I yield to the Ranking Member,
7 but I look forward to you coming back when you have
8 some real material for us.

9 MR. GEORGE: Most definitely.

10 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you.

11 Mr. Camus, exactly, if you can tell us,
12 what's involved in those negotiations for this
13 software? And how soon do you anticipate, based on
14 the rate you're going with your negotiations, that
15 you'll have it? Because I think the committee --
16 it would benefit the entire committee to have some
17 kind of idea of what kind of time frame we're
18 talking about.

19 MR. CAMUS: There -- there seems to be a
20 dispute with the vendor over certain licensing
21 rights, rights to come in and review how the
22 software is being used, which would mean they could

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1 come in and look at the material that we're
2 matching, and that's not acceptable to the federal
3 government. So there are those types of
4 negotiations going on right now between our
5 procurement officers and the vendor.

6 But this is a renowned company that has
7 the software that we need to do the job. It's used
8 forensically. And it's just very unfortunate, in
9 this particular moment, on this particular case,
10 that we're running into this problem at this time.

11 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you.

12 I would note to the gentlewoman, the
13 reason we're here is we haven't had an update in a
14 year and a half. And just a little over a week
15 ago, they found more than 400-and-some-odd tapes.
16 They are pursuing a potential criminal
17 investigation. They went to go find the tapes; it
18 took them 15 days. We've had testimony time and
19 time and time again from the IRS that said, we
20 can't find them, they're destroyed, they've been
21 duped over. And they found them in 15 days.
22 That's, in part, why we're here today.

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1 I now recognize --

2 MS. MALONEY: Will the gentleman yield?

3 Will the gentleman yield?

4 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I'm going to
5 recognize the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Jordan, for
6 five minutes.

7 MR. JORDAN: I thank the Chairman.

8 Mr. Camus, we learned from John Koskinen
9 and the IRS that they had lost the backup tapes, or
10 that the backup tapes no longer existed, when we
11 got a letter -- well, the letter went to the Senate
12 Finance Committee, but that's when we learned,
13 that's when the American people learned.

14 When did you learn? When did the IRS tell you that
15 the backup tapes didn't exist?

16 MR. CAMUS: The same -- the same time as
17 everybody else.

18 MR. JORDAN: So you learned like everyone
19 else?

20 MR. CAMUS: Yes, I did.

21 MR. JORDAN: Okay. And then when did you
22 find the tapes that the IRS said didn't exist?

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1 MR. CAMUS: We asked for them on June
2 30th, and we had them by July 1st.

3 MR. JORDAN: That's where -- that's where
4 the Chairman was a few minutes ago.

5 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

6 MR. JORDAN: So you learned like the
7 whole world, and then, as the Chairman said, 15
8 days later, you find them. How'd you find them?

9 MR. CAMUS: We asked for them, and we
10 demanded them.

11 MR. JORDAN: But, I mean, how'd you
12 actually get the physical tapes? What'd you do?

13 MR. CAMUS: Well, we identified the IRS
14 experts that would know where the tapes are. We
15 interviewed them, and we obtained them.

16 MR. JORDAN: Did you get in a car and
17 drive to Martinsburg, West Virginia?

18 MR. CAMUS: That's correct.

19 MR. JORDAN: Yeah. You just got in the
20 car, we drove to the place that had the tapes and
21 said, "Can we see the tapes? Here they are." Yeah.
22 And those people, when you got the tapes from them,

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1 you said, "Hey, by the way, did the IRS ask you --
2 did they come out and ask you if the tapes were
3 here?" You asked them that question, right? And
4 their answer was?

5 MR. CAMUS: No.

6 MR. JORDAN: No, they didn't. So you
7 just did something pretty simple. Where are the
8 tapes? I'm going to get in the car, I'm going to
9 drive, and I'm going to get the tapes.

10 Now, as the Chairman pointed out, for
11 four months, the IRS knew they lost the tapes --
12 lost them -- and didn't tell us. And then told the
13 whole world, told you on June 13th, and within a
14 few days, you had those tapes. And there were 770
15 and -- or, excuse me, 744 tapes you got on July
16 1st.

17 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

18 MR. JORDAN: When you drove to
19 Martinsburg and actually got the tapes?

20 MR. CAMUS: That's right.

21 MR. JORDAN: Okay. So you have that
22 number -- you had a lot of numbers in your

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1 testimony, but I want to focus on that number.
2 And then I want to focus on, were these the only
3 tapes you have gotten -- or you've actually gotten
4 in your possession? Are these the only tapes
5 you've got?

6 MR. CAMUS: No. We -- two weeks ago, we
7 recovered an additional 424 tapes.

8 MR. JORDAN: All right. So that's what
9 you pointed out near the end of your testimony.
10 So 744 tapes originally. Now, just two weeks ago,
11 you obtained 424 more. How'd you find out about
12 these tapes?

13 MR. CAMUS: As we were following up on
14 our initial interviews, we realized that we were
15 missing a document. When we obtained that document
16 and reviewed it, we realized that there were an
17 additional population of tapes that had been
18 unaccounted for.

19 MR. JORDAN: So, missing a document.
20 Whose document was that, and who should have given
21 you that document?

22 MR. CAMUS: It was an IRS document.

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1 MR. JORDAN: So they withheld a document
2 from you that prevented you from figuring out there
3 were more tapes than these 744; is that accurate?

4 MR. CAMUS: "Withholding the document," I
5 can't characterize that at the time because that's
6 still under investigation.

7 MR. JORDAN: They didn't give you a
8 document, and by not having the document, you
9 couldn't figure out that there were more tapes out
10 there with potentially more Lois Lerner emails on
11 them; is that correct?

12 MR. CAMUS: That would be accurate.

13 MR. JORDAN: Yeah. So any concerns about
14 the fact that that document wasn't there? And how
15 did you figure out that the document was missing?

16 MR. CAMUS: Just following up. As
17 we're -- as we're coming down to the conclusion of
18 our investigation, we make sure we have all the
19 documents. So when we determined that we were
20 short one document, we went and demanded it, and we
21 obtained it. Then we were able to notice that
22 there were a population of tapes that had never

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1 been disclosed.

2 MR. JORDAN: And were those -- where were
3 those tapes? The same place?

4 MR. CAMUS: They were also in
5 Martinsburg.

6 MR. JORDAN: So you got in the car and
7 drove there again, right?

8 MR. CAMUS: Yes, we did.

9 MR. JORDAN: You got more tapes?

10 MR. CAMUS: We did.

11 MR. JORDAN: Amazing. Amazing. So, now,
12 here's the key. And this is -- the Chairman, in
13 his opening round of questions. So when you have
14 the IRS take four months to tell you something, and
15 they don't even go to the place -- you figured out
16 in two weeks, you got in a car, drove there, and
17 got them, the IRS says they don't exist. Right?
18 You can -- you can find them in two -- two weeks,
19 get access to those tapes, and then you learned
20 that there -- so four months there, you get it in
21 two weeks. And then you learn that they're not
22 giving you the documents that you need to find even

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1 more tapes.

2 So when the Chairman asked the important
3 question: Is there potentially criminal activity
4 here, your answer was?

5 MR. CAMUS: There is potential criminal
6 activity.

7 MR. JORDAN: And that's -- that's --
8 that's the thing, right? I mean, it sure smells
9 like it. If the IRS takes four months to tell us
10 something as important as: We lost Lois Lerner's
11 emails, and their excuse is: We're doing our due
12 diligence, we're doing everything we darn well can
13 do to get those, and then when they do make it
14 public to the whole world -- they didn't tell you
15 ahead of time. They told you when they told the
16 whole world. And in two weeks, you got them.
17 Suddenly, they're, "Oh, wait a minute" -- well, two
18 weeks to get them.

19 And then you find out, in addition to
20 that, they're withholding documents that uncover
21 even more tapes. So we're not talking 744 tapes.
22 We're talking over 1100 tapes that we now have.

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And so, of course, this -- that's why we're -- she's done left. She should have stayed. This is why we're having the hearing. When the American people understand 1100 tapes that the IRS said, "They're gone, we can't get them," and all you do is get in a car, drive to Martinsburg, West Virginia -- not that far, one state over -- and get the tapes. Holy cow. Of course -- we should have had this hearing two weeks ago when you first learned that those tapes -- those 424 tapes were out there.

CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

MR. JORDAN: My time's expired. I yield back.

CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Now recognize the gentleman from the Massachusetts, Mr. Lynch, for five minutes.

MR. LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank Mr. George and Mr. Camus for your help tonight. Although, I have serious misgivings about doing this hearing halfway through

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1 an audit. And I know you, in your precatory
2 address, you talked about that.

3 And I have to ask both of you: Do you
4 typically do a hearing like this halfway through an
5 audit, when you're not complete, when you know that
6 things could change, as you said?

7 MR. GEORGE: Congressman, actually, the
8 audit is complete. The initial audit is complete.
9 We've initiated a subsequent audit looking at how
10 other groups were treated --

11 MR. LYNCH: I know that. But you also
12 said you've got a lot more work. You've got this
13 matching think you got to do. Okay? You have to
14 find out whether -- whether these are duplicates or
15 from a period before any of this occurred.

16 So you've got a lot that you haven't --

17 MR. GEORGE: They're two separate --

18 MR. LYNCH: -- determined, and you
19 haven't made any conclusions yet.

20 MR. GEORGE: Excuse me, sir. There's two
21 separate tracks. There's the audit track, and then
22 there's an investigations track. And I'll ask Tim

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1 to address the investigations track.

2 MR. CAMUS: Thank you, sir. It's,
3 generally, we don't discuss ongoing investigations.
4 This particular matter and this particular case is
5 of such interest to so many parties, we're trying
6 to limit our discussion to --

7 MR. LYNCH: I know -- I know what you're
8 trying to do. And I appreciate that. I appreciate
9 that. And I know you're trying mightily to adhere
10 to that standard.

11 But, in the middle of this, there's
12 allegations out there, repeated allegations, that
13 this is potentially criminal activity. It's also
14 potentially not criminal; is that correct?

15 MR. CAMUS: That's correct. We'll --

16 MR. LYNCH: Yeah. Don't --

17 MR. CAMUS: -- have to conclude our
18 investigation.

19 MR. LYNCH: And yet, there's allegations
20 that, you know, the IRS is withholding documents.
21 And that's not necessarily true. It could be
22 otherwise, right?

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1 MR. CAMUS: It's possible.

2 MR. LYNCH: Right. Well, here's -- on
3 May 22nd, Mr. George, you testified before this
4 committee, and you said this, and I quote: There
5 are established procedures for conducting an audit.
6 And, once this is an audit -- and once again, this
7 is an audit. And to ensure fairness in this
8 investigation and to ensure that we are completely
9 accurate with information that we convey to
10 Congress, we will not report information until the
11 IRS has an opportunity to take a look at it and to
12 ensure that we're not misstating the facts.

13 Do you remember saying that, sir?

14 MR. GEORGE: Vaguely, yes.

15 MR. LYNCH: Right. And then when pressed
16 further, you said this, "Sir, but it would be
17 impractical for us to give you impartial
18 information which may not be accurate. It would be
19 counterproductive, sir, if we were to do that."
20 That's what you said.

21 MR. GEORGE: Again, my understanding is,
22 referring to the audit.

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1 MR. LYNCH: Well, this says -- it says,
2 "Why, in your interview, is it counterproductive to
3 publically disclose information regarding ongoing
4 audits and investigations?"

5 MR. GEORGE: Well, I don't recall saying
6 that, but if you're quoting me, I --

7 MR. LYNCH: Here's another one. In
8 response to another question, you said, and I
9 quote: I think it would behoove all of us to
10 ensure that accurate information is given to
11 Congress so that we don't act precipitously. As
12 you are -- as you are -- I am sure are aware, many
13 times when information is conveyed to the Hill, it
14 is sometimes not retained on the Hill, and that is
15 not fair to the people who we are investigating.
16 Do you recall saying that?

17 MR. GEORGE: I would -- I recall that,
18 definitely.

19 MR. LYNCH: So -- so I'm very concerned
20 about this whole process, for your reputational
21 interests, not just for people who are suspected of
22 wrongdoing. I just think it's wrong.

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1 And you're telling me that, once you get
2 this software in two weeks' time, you'll be able to
3 do the match, you'll be able to give us some
4 concrete determinations.

5 Right now, this is all speculation, and I
6 think it hurts this hearing. And this is not an
7 issue that should be sidestepped. I'm not saying
8 that. I'm just saying we should do a very, very
9 good job, and we shouldn't go out -- go off
10 half-cocked before you can make the determinations
11 that you need to make. And that we have -- we have
12 hard evidence here, when you can actually say
13 whether or not there was -- whether here was
14 affirmative withholding here. When you can say
15 whether or not people hid things or, as was said
16 earlier, we were lied to.

17 MR. GEORGE: I --

18 MR. LYNCH: Right now, I'm concerned
19 about the due process rights of these people who
20 are being accused in absentia, when we -- when we
21 don't have the evidence. We don't have a final --
22 an end to this investigation, and we're doing this

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1 halfway through the process. That's -- I just
2 think we should be better than that.

3 And it if takes two more weeks -- and we
4 have waited a long time. We have waited. And I
5 don't begrudge the Chairman from being frustrated.
6 I'm frustrated too. But I would like -- I would
7 like a stone cold -- a full report here so that we
8 can actually do our job. And, right now, there's
9 too much speculation going on from the full
10 spectrum of possibilities.

11 And I respect your desire and your effort
12 to keep this down to, you know, just the mechanics
13 of what you've been doing, but it's gone far beyond
14 that already. And I think -- I think you've
15 impugned, by your own admissions here, the people
16 who you're investigating. And I think that may
17 come back to bite us and, indeed, hurt the
18 integrity of your own investigation, by doing this
19 prematurely.

20 I yield back.

21 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
22 gentleman.

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1 Now recognize the gentleman from
2 Michigan, Mr. Walberg, for five minutes.

3 MR. WALBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 And I thank you for continuing this investigation.

5 I think they doth protest too much. And
6 the gyrations that are going on, trying to indicate
7 that we are premature, my gracious, if this is
8 premature, I'd hate to see what delayed is.

9 This is our responsibility, Mr. Chairman,
10 and thank you, to do oversight, to continue to push
11 to get to the answers. 32,000, they may all be
12 duplicates, but we should have had those. We
13 should have 80,000. We have the responsibility and
14 the right to have those. And I appreciate the work
15 that's being done here.

16 I mean, we're still talking about
17 citizens who have been attacked by their
18 government. They're IRS intimidated. Even to this
19 day, it's still going on. These are people we
20 can't forget. "If you say the targeting issues
21 have been resolved, how come we still haven't
22 received a determination one way or the other,"

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1 asked Rick Harbaugh, leader of the Albuquerque Tea
2 Party, which has been waiting 5 years for its tax
3 exemption. "We are still being targeted." That's
4 in their mind. And so it's good work we're doing
5 here.

6 In May of 2013, the DOJ announced that it
7 would be conducting an independent investigation of
8 the IRS targeting in conjunction with the Treasury
9 Inspector General for Tax Administration, you
10 folks. At the 2013 press conference where Holder
11 made the announcement, he said, "Those were, I
12 think, as everyone can agree, if not criminal, they
13 were certainly outrageous and unacceptable. But
14 we're examining the facts to see if there were
15 criminal violations." Good.

16 But a DOJ official involved in the
17 investigation, who is doing this at his -- at Eric
18 Holder's behest, was Barbara Bosserman, who
19 contributed the maximum amount to President Obama's
20 campaign.

21 The DOJ leaked last year that it did not
22 anticipate any criminal charges being filed. And,

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1 earlier this year, February 13th, to be exact, our
2 Attorney General, Eric Holder, said, "I'm satisfied
3 with the progress that the Criminal Division has
4 done. The Civil Rights Division, as well. I
5 expect that we will have some final recommendations
6 coming up relatively soon."

7 Well, if that's the case, then it is
8 important that we do these studies, these
9 questioning right now.

10 Let me ask Mr. George and Mr. Camus, is
11 TIGTA still participating in the DOJ's
12 investigation of the targeting of conservative
13 nonprofit groups?

14 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir, we are.

15 MR. WALBERG: Is this investigation
16 nearing completion?

17 MR. CAMUS: That's a DOJ investigation.
18 I can't comment on their behalf.

19 MR. WALBERG: Are you aware if any
20 criminal charges are going to be filed?

21 MR. CAMUS: I'm not aware of that, sir.

22 MR. WALBERG: Considered to be filed?

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1 MR. CAMUS: I'm not aware of the
2 specifics.

3 MR. WALBERG: Are you aware that, in
4 January, Eric Holder stated that the DOJ's
5 investigation was nearing completion and that DOJ
6 would be making recommendations to IRS?

7 MR. CAMUS: I'm not aware of that
8 statement, sir.

9 MR. WALBERG: Do you know what these
10 recommendations will be?

11 MR. CAMUS: I do not.

12 MR. WALBERG: I think we're getting a
13 trend here.

14 Another reason for this hearing: To find
15 who's on first, who's on second, what's
16 progressing, what we have to expect, what we need
17 to be looking for.

18 Isn't it your job and not the job of DOJ
19 to make recommendations to the IRS?

20 MR. CAMUS: It is.

21 MR. WALBERG: Your job to do that.

22 MR. CAMUS: It is.

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1 MR. WALBERG: So the purposes for which
2 you are undertaking this investigation, you are
3 doing it with diligence.

4 You may have a question, Mr. George,
5 about one document. We've got 32,000 documents
6 that we're concerned about here.

7 But more than that, again, I go back to
8 the fact that we are concerned about citizens,
9 private citizens, taxpaying citizens, citizens who
10 have First Amendment liberties, citizens who have
11 the right to know that their government will not go
12 after them in untoward ways simply because of their
13 beliefs, their values, who they join and involve
14 themselves with.

15 And I thank you for the good work you're
16 doing. I wish that we could receive the
17 information that we requested so we could work
18 alongside in a parallel process to get to the
19 bottom of what ought to be the American ideal, and
20 that's freedom and opportunity.

21 Mr. George, you have a statement?

22 MR. GEORGE: Just briefly. I think it's

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1 important to note that we had made recommendations
2 to the IRS on this very issue and are in the
3 process of reviewing to see whether or not those
4 recommendations have been implemented. And,
5 hopefully, that report will be out in the not too
6 distant future.

7 MR. WALBERG: Thank you.

8 I yield back.

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
10 gentleman.

11 I recognize the gentleman from
12 Pennsylvania, Mr. Cartwright, for five minutes.

13 MR. CARTWRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. George, in case you or anyone
15 listening does not fully understand why
16 Mr. Connolly and I have filed a complaint against
17 you, here's the beef. The Council of the
18 Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or
19 CIGIE, is the organizing entity for IGs across
20 Federal agencies. They issue a handbook for IGs
21 like you on how to conduct investigations in a
22 nonpartisan manner.

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1 This is what the handbook says about
2 discussing ongoing investigations with Congress,
3 and I quote, "IGs should avoid any appearance of
4 partisanship in such engagements. Bipartisan
5 meetings and outreach is the most appropriate
6 format for such OIG meetings," unquote.

7 What is troubling to me is that, during
8 this investigation, you and your staff have engaged
9 in a series of activities that contradict this
10 clear guidance.

11 At the beginning of this investigation,
12 more than three years ago, your staff held a
13 private meeting with Republican staff working for
14 former Chairman Darrell Issa of this committee.
15 That meeting occurred on March 8, 2012, during
16 which your staff discussed the scope of the
17 investigation. Democrats were not invited, were
18 not informed, and did not participate.

19 On July 11, a few months later, you sent
20 a private letter to former Chairman Issa confirming
21 these events. This is what you wrote, and I quote,
22 "After our meeting, our Office of Audit recently

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1 began work on the issue. We would be happy to
2 provide a status update to the subcommittee staff."
3 You sent a copy of that letter to Representative
4 Jordan, but you did not send a copy to any
5 Democrats.

6 On May 15, 2013, you issued your report.
7 So, right there, that means you worked over a year
8 on your audit for this committee with the Democrats
9 on this committee entirely in the dark -- you, who
10 are required to be bipartisan and not partisan.

11 So what did you write in the May 15th,
12 2013, report? You said -- you talked about the
13 BOLOs. You talked about the right-wing groups
14 being targeted, but you did not reference any
15 progressive groups that we know were subjected to
16 similar treatment.

17 When you came before this committee on
18 May 22, a week later, 2013, we asked why your
19 report did not address progressive groups. You
20 said, and I quote, "Because those groups did not
21 have, again, the 'Be on the Lookout, Tea Party,
22 'Patriot,' or '9/12' in their names."

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1 When we asked you about specific reports
2 that the IRS was treating progressive groups
3 similarly, you said this, and I quote, "I have
4 subsequently received information that what you're
5 indicating may have occurred, and, as a result, we
6 will be conducting a follow-up review to determine
7 whether or not that's the case."

8 On July 18, 2013, you testified before
9 this committee again. At that hearing, we showed
10 you internal IRS documents indicating that
11 progressive groups were subjected to this type of
12 scrutiny and were also included on training
13 materials. You said, "We just learned about that
14 recently, and that name was being used by the IRS.
15 So, you know, as I indicated in my opening
16 statement, we just recently, last week, received
17 new information that is disturbing and we need to
18 pursue." So you testified it was disturbing that
19 you did not discover these documents about
20 progressive groups earlier.

21 But, about a month earlier, on June 23,
22 2013, your communications director stated publicly

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1 that the reason for this was because you were
2 only looking for Tea Party groups. She said
3 chairman Issa had directed you, and I quote her
4 words, "to narrowly focus on Tea Party
5 organizations."

6 When you testified on July 18, 2013, you
7 said she misspoke, your communications director
8 misspoke. So, apparently, it was your office, on
9 its own, deciding to focus only on conservative
10 groups and not to review progressive groups.

11 On January 27, 2014, your staff held
12 another meeting with Republican staff, and
13 Democrats were excluded yet again. In fact, on
14 February 4, Ranking Member Cummings wrote to
15 complain about partisan activities and not
16 including Democrats. Nevertheless, these partisan
17 activities have continued to this day.

18 About a month ago, on January 22, your
19 staff met privately with Chairman Chaffetz,
20 Chairman Jordan, and others. There were no
21 Democrats present. You did not inform the minority
22 the meeting was going to happen. And it wasn't

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1 until 11 days later that your staff finally
2 provided the minority with that briefing.

3 Mr. George, as you sit here today, this
4 evening, are you aware that your IG handbook says,
5 "IGs should avoid any appearance of partisanship.
6 In such engagements, bipartisan meetings and
7 outreach is the most appropriate format for such
8 OIG meetings"? Are you aware of that this evening?

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The gentleman's time
10 has expired, but the gentleman, Mr. George, may
11 answer the question.

12 MR. GEORGE: I mean, there's quite a bit
13 of information there, sir, and there's a lot that I
14 would like to respond to. But suffice it to say, I
15 don't control the attendees of meetings. If I'm
16 invited by the chairman of a full committee or a
17 subcommittee to meet with him or her --

18 MR. CARTWRIGHT: It's a "yes" or "no"
19 question. Are you aware that that's in your
20 handbook, that you have to be bipartisan?

21 MR. GEORGE: I've engaged in
22 bipartisanship my entire political and professional

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1 career, sir. So, yes, I --

2 MR. CARTWRIGHT: And did you know --

3 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The gentleman's --

4 MR. CARTWRIGHT: -- that was in your

5 handbook two and a half years ago?

6 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Gentleman's time has

7 expired.

8 MR. GEORGE: I --

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The gentleman's time
10 has expired.

11 MR. CARTWRIGHT: I yield back, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you.

14 I now recognize the gentleman from South
15 Carolina, Mr. Gowdy.

16 MR. GOWDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 And, Mr. George, I want you to take heart

18 and I want you to be heartened by the fact that

19 when one side has good facts, they pound the facts;

20 and when they have good law, they pound the law;

21 and when they don't have either facts or law, then

22 they like to pound the judge. And that's what

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1 we've been listening to tonight. I've heard more
2 questions and tougher questions directed to you
3 than I've heard directed to Lois Lerner. So I want
4 you to take heart.

5 And we'll get back to this bipartisanship
6 here towards the end, because I'd like to invite my
7 friends from the other side of the aisle to write a
8 letter to the Department of Justice. Speaking of
9 the appearance of partisanship, we have a DOJ
10 lawyer who contributed the maximum to the
11 President, and that's who's supposed to be
12 investigating.

13 So, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we could have
14 a letter, and we could get some Democrats to sign
15 that letter with us, and we can ask the Department
16 of Justice to update us on the status of the
17 investigation and whether or not Ms. Bosserman is
18 the right person to conduct that investigation.

19 However, Mr. Camus, I want to ask you this:
20 Mr. Koskinen, Commissioner Koskinen, in June of
21 2014, said that there was no evidence of criminal
22 wrongdoing, which I found to be stunning, because I

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1 was not aware previously that he was a criminal
2 investigator. I thought he was the Commissioner of
3 the IRS. So I think we both learned something that
4 night.

5 He had conducted a full investigation and
6 found no criminal wrongdoing, which I found also
7 stunning because the Ways and Means Committee had
8 made a criminal referral to the Department of
9 Justice.

10 So to the extent Mr Koskinen is watching
11 tonight, are there potential criminal statutes at
12 play?

13 MR. CAMUS: Yes, there could be. Yes,
14 sir.

15 MR. GOWDY: Well, what could they be?
16 I'm not asking you to prejudge it, but you can't
17 discriminate against someone based on their
18 political ideology, can you?

19 MR. CAMUS: No.

20 MR. GOWDY: No. That's against the law,
21 and thank the Lord for it.

22 And you can't disclose confidential

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1 taxpayer information, can you?

2 MR. CAMUS: No, you cannot.

3 MR. GOWDY: No, you cannot.

4 Nor can you mislead Congress, can you?

5 MR. CAMUS: You cannot.

6 MR. GOWDY: Could I ask the Chairman to
7 engage in a colloquy with me?

8 Mr. Chairman, I listened -- and he is my
9 friend, from Virginia, Mr. Connolly, and I want to
10 say that publicly. It may hurt him in his
11 district, but he is my friend. I listened to him
12 ask Mr. George to respond to a letter that he had
13 written asking for an update on something that
14 clearly Mr. George has no jurisdiction over and
15 can't respond to.

16 And I would be curious as to whether or
17 not the Chairman would ask our friends on the other
18 side of the aisle if they would be willing to write
19 a letter to the Department of Justice. I'd be
20 curious how Ms. Bosserman was chosen out of all the
21 competent -- and there are lots and lots of
22 competent attorneys in the Department of Justice --

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1 I am curious why she, as a max-out donor to the
2 President, was picked to head this criminal
3 investigation.

4 And, Mr. Chairman, I'd be interested in
5 whether or not there's even been a grand jury
6 that's been convened. And, Mr. Chairman, I'd be
7 interested in whether or not any grand jury
8 subpoenas have been issued, either for documents or
9 for witnesses.

10 And I'd be interested in whether or not
11 there are any proffer agreements or whether they've
12 made any effort to talk to Ms. Lerner. You and I
13 didn't have any success talking to her. I was
14 hoping that they would have more success.

15 So I would ask the Chairman to
16 investigate, given this bipartisan spirit that I
17 heard tonight, asking our colleagues on the other
18 side of the aisle to join in a letter with us,
19 asking for an update on the real investigation, not
20 investigating the investigator, which is what I've
21 heard a lot of tonight --

22 MR. CONNOLLY: Would my friend yield?

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1 MR. GOWDY: -- but actually -- I will in
2 just a second. And I will, I promise. Not
3 investigating the investigator, which I've heard a
4 lot of tonight, Mr. George, but the real underlying
5 investigation into whether criminal conduct was
6 engaged in.

7 Would the Chairman be willing to
8 entertain that thought?

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Yes. I will follow
10 up --

11 MR. GOWDY: And I thank the gentleman
12 from Utah. And I would yield, with great
13 trepidation, to my friend from Virginia.

14 MR. CONNOLLY: I thank my friend. And he
15 also is my friend.

16 Now, I'm not a fancy country lawyer from
17 South Carolina like my friend, but I would say it's
18 a neat trick to attack folks on partisanship,
19 but to try to nullify our concerns about that very
20 subject here with respect to Mr. George himself.
21 The objectivity, Mr. George, is very much in doubt.

22 And if my friend wants to draw us into a

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1 letter questioning the objectivity of the partisan
2 activities of a lawyer at the Department, we're
3 happy to entertain that, if my friend will join us
4 in the concerns that were enumerated by Mr.
5 Cartwright and by myself in a 26-page complaint --

6 MR. GOWDY: Well, re --

7 MR. CONNOLLY: -- about the partisan
8 briefings and the violation of the IG handbook.
9 And, by the way, if we're going to condemn people
10 or raise questions, by insinuation, of their
11 partisan affiliations, we can do that with Mr.
12 George, too, because he has a partisan history.

13 MR. GOWDY: Reclaiming my time, because
14 I'm out of time, and I know the Chairman --

15 MR. CONNOLLY: I thank my good friend.

16 MR. GOWDY: -- is going to let me make
17 one conclusory comment.

18 This is the, I think, the third time Mr.
19 George has appeared before this committee. So my
20 point to the gentleman from Virginia is simply
21 this: What's good for the goose is good for the
22 gander. If this man is going to have to sit here

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1 and listen to accusations about his character and
2 his partiality, then I think the least that can be
3 done is that we can have a few questions to the
4 Department of Justice about -- I'm not prejudging
5 Ms. Bosserman. I have no idea. I just
6 find it curious, out of all the thousands of
7 lawyers in the Department of Justice, why they
8 stumbled upon one who was a max-out donor to the
9 DNC. That was my question.

10 And I know I'm out of time, so I'll yield
11 back to the Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

13 I now recognize the gentlewoman from
14 Michigan, Ms. Lawrence, for five minutes.

15 MS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 And thank you, Ranking Member.

17 Some of my colleagues -- and many of you
18 know that I'm a freshman Congresswoman, so this --
19 this conversation has preceded me in the previous
20 Congress. So I have some questions of timelines
21 that I would like to validate.

22 Some of my colleagues continue to claim

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1 that there were ill intent surrounding Lois
2 Lerner's computer crash, that she intentionally
3 crashed it to conceal her emails. I just want to
4 review the timeline.

5 And, Mr. George, Lois Lerner's computer
6 crashed on June 13, 2011; is that correct?

7 MR. GEORGE: That is correct.
8 But for the technical questions, ma'am, I'm going
9 to defer to Mr. Camus, but I'll do my best to
10 answer the questions that I can.

11 MS. LAWRENCE: And emails produced to the
12 committee confirm that it crashed on June 13, 2011.
13 Then, on June 14, 2011, Ms. Lerner sent an email to
14 several IRS employees stating that she could not
15 read her emails because her computer crashed a day
16 earlier. She wrote, and I quote, "My computer
17 crashed yesterday. My BlackBerry doesn't work in
18 my office; so I just saw this."

19 Mr. George, according to your audit
20 report on June 29th, 2011, Ms. Lerner received a
21 briefing explaining that the IRS employees in
22 Cincinnati were searching for applications that

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1 included the terms "Tea Party," "Patriots," and
2 "9/12."

3 Do I have that date correct?

4 MR. GEORGE: Yes, you do.

5 MS. LAWRENCE: So before Ms. George [sic]
6 received information from you that there were
7 complaints, her computer had already crashed; is
8 that correct?

9 MR. GEORGE: You know, in all candor,
10 Congresswoman, the timeline, as it relates to --
11 and this is -- you're referring to the audit and
12 not the investigation --

13 MS. LAWRENCE: Yes.

14 MR. GEORGE: -- so I will have to supply
15 you an answer for the record, if that's
16 permissible.

17 MS. LAWRENCE: Well, according to your
18 report, Ms. Lerner learned about these
19 inappropriate search terms. She -- and I quote --
20 she wrote, or she stated that she immediately
21 directed that the criteria be changed.

22 MR. GEORGE: I've just been informed that

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1 the date that you cited is accurate, Congresswoman.

2 MS. LAWRENCE: Okay. So if we're
3 following the timeline: June 13th, the computer
4 crashed; on June 14th, there was an email sent
5 saying, my computer crashed yesterday; and then, on
6 June 29, Ms. Lerner received a briefing explaining
7 that employees in IRS were using these terms.
8 And if I'm correct, those are the timelines so far,
9 correct?

10 MR. GEORGE: My understanding, and again,
11 I'm getting this from staff, is that most of the
12 dates that you cited were accurate, with one
13 possible exception. And --

14 MR. CAMUS: I believe the date that you
15 cite for the computer crash is accurate.

16 MS. LAWRENCE: Okay. So, at the time of
17 Ms. Lerner's computer crash, had TIGTA commenced
18 its audit of IRS employees' handling of
19 applications or for tax-exempt status?

20 MR. GEORGE: No. No. It hadn't begun.

21 MS. LAWRENCE: No? So she couldn't have
22 known that you were coming in to investigate the

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1 past actions or the need for her -- she hadn't been
2 notified of any need or any investigation when the
3 audit began.

4 MR. GEORGE: Now, I don't know whether
5 she was interviewed, and I can't, in all candor,
6 determine what was in her mind. But that is an
7 assumption, I think, one could make.

8 I don't know if anyone -- Tim, you would
9 want to add to that?

10 MS. LAWRENCE: I'm looking for, not
11 assumptions. If the -- the facts that we have is
12 that her computer -- we have a date, and her
13 computer crashed on June 13. And it wasn't until
14 June 29 that there was indication that there was
15 going to be an audit based on these terminologies
16 that were being used from the IRS.

17 MR. GEORGE: There's no question --

18 MS. LAWRENCE: That's a fact.

19 MR. GEORGE: There's no question it was
20 after --

21 MS. LAWRENCE: Okay.

22 MR. GEORGE: -- the crash that there was

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1 any indication of an audit.

2 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I --

3 MS. LAWRENCE: And our former Chairman
4 did not ask to review this matter until 2012; is
5 that correct?

6 MR. GEORGE: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
8 gentlewoman. Time has expired.

9 So we'll now recognize the gentleman from
10 Kentucky, Mr. Massie, for five minutes.

11 MR. MASSIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 So, just to go over some of the stuff in
13 your opening statements. You said that you found
14 744 backup tapes, Mr. Camus?

15 MR. CAMUS: That's correct.

16 MR. MASSIE: And this is after we were
17 told in these hearings by Mr. Koskinen that these
18 tapes were unavailable.

19 When did you -- when did you first obtain
20 the tapes, those 744 backup tapes?

21 MR. CAMUS: July 1st, 2014.

22 MR. MASSIE: July 1st of 2014. What I

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1 find interesting is that Mr. Koskinen was here on
2 July 9th, 2014, and I specifically -- which would
3 be eight days after you found those tapes. And
4 those tapes were in the possession of IRS
5 employees?

6 MR. CAMUS: Yes. They were the backup
7 tapes that were in use.

8 MR. MASSIE: Right. And those backup
9 tapes were kept by the IRS in Martinsville, West
10 Virginia?

11 MR. CAMUS: Martinsburg, West Virginia.

12 MR. MASSIE: Martinsburg. Sorry.

13 So -- but eight days later, after you
14 found those tapes from IRS employees -- and you
15 said you drove there to get them, I asked Mr.
16 Koskinen, I said, "I think you testified earlier
17 that the backup tapes are recycled every six
18 months." They are kept -- and Mr. Koskinen said,
19 "They are kept for six months, and then the tapes
20 are put back into being recycled." I said, "So the
21 tapes are reused?" Mr. Koskinen said, "They are
22 reused, yes. They are reused until they don't

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1 work."

2 And so my questioning went on further
3 with him, because I don't think it's typical
4 practice that these tapes are reused. They're too
5 cheap to reuse.

6 Do you have any indication that they were
7 reusing those tapes?

8 MR. CAMUS: Yes. I believe they were
9 reusing the tapes.

10 MR. MASSIE: So the tapes that you found,
11 had they been overwritten?

12 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

13 MR. MASSIE: And so you have tapes that
14 cover which dates?

15 MR. CAMUS: The tapes that we recovered
16 had been overwritten. However, by obtaining them
17 and looking at them ourselves, we were able to find
18 a backup as far back as November of 2012. And that
19 backup contained emails that went all the way back
20 to 2001.

21 MR. MASSIE: So those backups had not
22 been overwritten?

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1 MR. CAMUS: That is correct. There was
2 information on that tape that had not been
3 overwritten that allowed us to see email as far
4 back as 2001.

5 MR. MASSIE: And you --

6 MR. CAMUS: Now, a distinct -- go ahead.

7 MR. MASSIE: And you found 32,774 unique
8 emails on those tapes, Lois Lerner emails?

9 MR. CAMUS: They're unique to Lois
10 Lerner. But what we have yet to determine is if
11 the IRS ever had possession of those and if they,
12 in fact, turned them over to Congress.

13 MR. MASSIE: And you said you found nine
14 tapes that were either blank or erased?

15 MR. CAMUS: That's correct.

16 MR. MASSIE: And, earlier, you testified
17 you weren't sure whether they were blank or erased,
18 and it was difficult or impossible to tell. Can
19 the FBI discover -- I mean, it seems to me,
20 technically, that you could tell if -- with some
21 diligence, maybe not at first glance.

22 MR. CAMUS: Well, there's -- we were

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1 informed by two parties; one, the FBI, and then the
2 other is a private expert on data recovery, that
3 the tapes, when they examined them, were blank. So
4 whether or not they were erased and when they were
5 erased, they weren't able to determine that, based
6 on their forensic expertise. That's why we sent
7 them to two separate places.

8 MR. MASSIE: All right. So another thing
9 I wanted to ask you about. Some of Lois Lerner's
10 cohorts had hard drives that failed as well during
11 that same period of time after the investigation
12 started or that the IRS was put on notice that they
13 were going to be investigated.

14 Do these tapes, or could these tapes
15 contain emails that may have been lost in the
16 failure of those hard drives of her cohorts?

17 MR. CAMUS: Yes. We're also looking into
18 those as well.

19 MR. MASSIE: And so how many of her
20 cohorts had hard drives that failed that you are
21 looking for on these tapes?

22 MR. CAMUS: I believe it ended up being a

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1 total of five individuals.

2 MR. MASSIE: And you think -- have you
3 found any of those emails yet?

4 MR. CAMUS: We're still in the process of
5 looking. And those individuals were scattered in
6 different places, so their emails were managed out
7 of different email servers.

8 MR. MASSIE: Do you think you will be
9 able to retrieve information from the -- you said
10 you found 760; is that correct, hard drives?

11 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

12 MR. MASSIE: That were in a server-type
13 arrangement, a rack?

14 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

15 MR. MASSIE: Do you think it will be
16 possible to obtain information for those, based on
17 your interaction with experts?

18 MR. CAMUS: It's too early to tell. If
19 the drives are damaged beyond repair, it will be
20 almost impossible to obtain meaningful email off of
21 those.

22 MR. MASSIE: All right. Thank you.

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1 I yield back my time.

2 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
3 gentleman.

4 I now recognize the gentlewoman from the
5 Virgin Islands, Ms. Plaskett, for five minutes.

6 MS. PLASKETT: Yes, thank you, Chairman,
7 Ranking Member. And, gentlemen, good evening to
8 you.

9 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, you
10 know, I am a freshman as well. And it is difficult
11 for me, sitting here as a former prosecutor and a
12 courtroom attorney, not to jump up and shout
13 "objection" at a lot of the things that I've been
14 hearing, which are, in some instances, hearsay and
15 speculation, subjective conclusions that my
16 colleagues are putting forward.

17 It, quite frankly, is a little
18 frightening for me to hear this without having --
19 being able to say anything, but I'm learning, and
20 so I will stick to the -- how we are doing things
21 here.

22 Mr. George, you made a statement that

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1 it's important to keep Congress informed. And I
2 find it a little questionable that you would keep
3 Congress informed of facts that, in testimony that
4 Mr. Camus has stated previously, changed from day
5 to day and that may negatively impact the integrity
6 of investigations as facts change from day to day,
7 one day to the next, which, as a previous
8 investigator, I understand that you must come to
9 the full conclusion before you put something out
10 there which may, in fact, change.

11 So, Mr. Camus, I wanted to ask you about
12 the process that still needs to take place and that
13 changing the narrative of investigations. I
14 understand about the 32,000 emails which have
15 already been produced to the committee. And how
16 long do you anticipate, after you've finished your
17 analysis of the emails that you have, how long will
18 that take, please? I think you may have stated.

19 MR. CAMUS: Yes, ma'am. We have not
20 produced any emails to any committee yet until
21 we're finished with the match.

22 MS. PLASKETT: And then after the match

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1 is done?

2 MR. CAMUS: Yes, to the degree the
3 committee can receive them, some may need to be
4 redacted --

5 MS. PLASKETT: Correct.

6 MR. CAMUS: -- to take out the 6103
7 protected information.

8 MS. PLASKETT: Exactly.

9 MR. CAMUS: So we're hopeful that, as
10 soon as we get our hands on the software and are
11 able to -- to put the match together --

12 MS. PLASKETT: Um-hum.

13 MR. CAMUS: -- we're probably a week or
14 two away. And then the other factors that could
15 play into when we're finished with our
16 investigation and are able to issue a report with
17 findings.

18 MS. PLASKETT: Right. How long does it
19 usually take you to draft a report, the final
20 report?

21 MR. CAMUS: We're prepared to draft a
22 final report when all the evidence is in, probably

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1 within a week or two.

2 MS. PLASKETT: A week or two?

3 MR. CAMUS: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. PLASKETT: And so some of the
5 information that you may have given tonight, if
6 facts were asked, may, in fact, change?

7 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

8 MS. PLASKETT: And so we put that
9 information out to the general public, which may,
10 in fact, change.

11 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

12 MS. PLASKETT: That's a little
13 troublesome.

14 And I would ask the Chairman and the
15 Ranking Member that we give them that time period,
16 which, although in the scheme, the long-term scheme
17 of how long we have been investigating, doesn't
18 seem to me to be that much more of a wait.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CUMMINGS: Would the lady yield?

21 MS. PLASKETT: Yes. I will yield to the
22 Ranking Member.

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1 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you.

2 You know, the question that needs to be
3 asked here -- and I've listened to all this -- but
4 this is the question: Mr. Camus, did you, when
5 you -- during your investigation, did you ask the
6 question: Why did you not have the information
7 about the backup tapes? In other words, did you go
8 to somebody and ask them that in IRS? Because
9 nobody's asked that question yet. And that seems
10 like a logical question, since we're talking about
11 criminal activity, and I would think that that
12 would possibly be the basis of some of it. Did
13 you?

14 MR. CAMUS: Without -- to answer your
15 question, Mr. Cummings, without compromising the
16 investigation --

17 MR. CUMMINGS: Right.

18 MR. CAMUS: -- when we started our search
19 for missing emails, we were going to leave no stone
20 unturned and we were not going to take an obvious
21 answer. So we were going to find and prove for
22 ourselves whether or not email had been

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1 overwritten.

2 We approached the Internal Revenue
3 Service, and we said, we need all backup tapes that
4 would have been in place between 2008 and 2011 for
5 Ms. Lerner. They provided the 400 -- the 744
6 tapes. We believed that we were working with the
7 tapes that were in play and had allegedly been
8 overwritten.

9 After we started analyzing those tapes
10 and we started seeing email that went all the way
11 back to 2001, we believed that we had found old
12 tapes that had been in place since 2011 in the
13 server. Only until two weeks ago were we told and
14 did we find through our investigative efforts --

15 MR. CUMMINGS: Well, that's where I'm
16 going. But did you ask the question about that,
17 what you discovered? Like what happened? I mean,
18 did you say: What's this about?

19 MR. CAMUS: Naturally, that's -- that's
20 probably the most important part that has left --
21 that is left for us to investigate at this point,
22 is to determine how and why all that happened and

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1 if there was any ill intent behind any of that.

2 MR. CUMMINGS: So you're still looking
3 into that?

4 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir.

5 MR. CUMMINGS: All right. Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: If the gentlewoman
7 would yield.

8 Is there any evidence that there was an
9 attempt to erase any of the tapes?

10 MR. CAMUS: They were -- at this point, I
11 don't want to make any conclusions. I believe that
12 some tapes were erased, but I don't have -- I'm not
13 to the point in my investigation where I can
14 explain that without jeopardizing my ability to --

15 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Fair enough.

16 MR. CAMUS: -- figure out if it was done
17 on purpose.

18 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: And as the
19 gentlewoman's time expires here, one of the reasons
20 that we're doing this update, one of the things
21 that causes us great concern is that back at the
22 Super Bowl, you know, the Super Bowl, the President

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1 is interviewed by Bill O'Reilly; he said: There's
2 not even a smidgen of corruption here.

3 Nobody else has come to conclusions. We
4 still have outstanding questions from the
5 Department of Justice, from the Inspector General,
6 from Congress. Somehow the President came to this
7 conclusion. Fascinated to hear some day how in the
8 world he thinks he can come to that conclusion
9 without the facts.

10 But there is a lot of evidence, and
11 Congress plays a role. We can't simply sit back.
12 We are, too, also doing an investigation. And we
13 have repeatedly -- repeatedly had the Commissioner
14 of the IRS come here and tell us a whole variety of
15 stories, that based on the testimony we hear today,
16 that ain't true. And that's why we continue to
17 investigate.

18 I now recognize the gentleman from North
19 Carolina, Mr. Meadows, for five minutes.

20 MR. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 And thank each of you for being here.

22 I was talking to a gentleman from

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1 Kentucky the other day, Mr. Phillips, and he was
2 asking me, well, why can't we just get all the
3 emails from everybody else that communicated with
4 Ms. Lois Lerner?

5 And I think just a few minutes ago, you
6 were saying there were five other people that were
7 central to this investigation that we've lost their
8 emails. Is that correct, Mr. Camus?

9 MR. CAMUS: I'm sorry, Mr. Meadows. We
10 were looking into a total of possibly up to seven.

11 MR. MEADOWS: So seven potential people
12 who, miraculously, their emails just disappeared.
13 And so now you're looking for the backup tapes,
14 like you have found with Ms. Lerner?

15 MR. CAMUS: Yes. We're trying to account
16 for every single email for every one of the
17 individuals that would have been considered a
18 custodian.

19 MR. MEADOWS: Yeah. So have you found
20 some of those at this point, or you're still in the
21 process?

22 MR. CAMUS: We're still in the process,

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1 sir.

2 MR. MEADOWS: All right. Do you find it
3 very ironic that there would be testimony here, at
4 that very table where you're sitting today, a
5 number of times saying that there are no backup
6 tapes, they're gone? All the backup tapes, we've
7 looked, we can't find them? Do you find that as
8 ironic, that you were able to find them so easily?
9 And I'm talking about your personal opinion. Do
10 you find that ironic?

11 MR. CAMUS: We're trained investigators,
12 and we don't assume --

13 MR. MEADOWS: So you don't find anything
14 ironic.

15 MR. CAMUS: Oh, we didn't assume
16 anything, Mr. Meadows.

17 MR. MEADOWS: All right. Well, do you --
18 if you were sitting in my position --

19 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

20 MR. MEADOWS: -- or, more importantly, if
21 you were the American people, would you believe
22 that Congress had been misled that there was an

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1 exhaustive research for these backup tapes? Would
2 you -- would that be a logical conclusion for me to
3 draw?

4 MR. CAMUS: I could certainly see how
5 somebody could draw that --

6 MR. MEADOWS: So you could see how the
7 American people would think that we have been
8 misled?

9 So, today, if nothing more comes out of
10 this hearing, the hearing -- the title should be,
11 "Congress was misled about backup tapes." Would
12 you agree with that? Would that be an accurate
13 title?

14 MR. CAMUS: As an investigator, I would
15 have to lay against and literally look at
16 everything that's been said and put in record and
17 then compare it to what I know as of today and,
18 also, hopefully, complete my investigation. I
19 would probably know much better when I'm finished.

20 MR. MEADOWS: All right. And -- well,
21 you would know much better when you're finished is
22 to the conclusion of that. But, certainly, as of

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1 today, we've been misled.

2 Do you think new information has come out
3 from this hearing that we didn't know about prior
4 to this hearing? How about that? That's an easier
5 one, isn't it?

6 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

7 MR. MEADOWS: So we have new information
8 today that you uncovered that you've shared with
9 Members of Congress.

10 Because my colleagues over on the other
11 side, you know, ad some of them are new. And as we
12 go back, we must remember, I haven't always been
13 kind to you, Mr. George, have I?

14 MR. GEORGE: You've been fair.

15 MR. MEADOWS: Okay. Well, thank you for
16 being gracious. But, at the same time, we will ask
17 piercing questions on why this is done.

18 And so I'd like to put up a slide,
19 because I found this very ironic and we just -- it
20 hit when the gentlewoman across the aisle talked
21 about June the 29th. And this is an email from
22 June the 29th when Lois Lerner got briefed. And I

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1 didn't put those two together, but it's dated that
2 same exact day. And it's an email from Lois Lerner
3 that's sent to two of her colleagues. And she
4 says, "No one will ever believe that both your hard
5 drive and mine crashed within a week of each other.
6 Isn't that strange?"

7 Would you agree that that's strange?

8 MR. CAMUS: I would agree that --

9 MR. MEADOWS: I would agree that it's
10 strange. I would think that it would be even
11 stranger that those hard drives crashed ten days
12 after Lois Lerner was informed from Chairman Camp
13 that he wanted to know what's happening with the
14 targeting of Tea Party groups.

15 Wouldn't you find that strange? Or very
16 coincidental? Let's put it that way.

17 MR. CAMUS: I would agree with you. Very
18 coincidental.

19 MR. MEADOWS: So if we have that, and we
20 have all of this, what you would say as an
21 investigator, circumstantial evidence, shouldn't we
22 look a little bit deeper for those emails? And

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1 shouldn't we, in a bipartisan fashion, be extremely
2 happy with the fact that you're bringing -- that
3 you found evidence that wasn't previously available
4 to us?

5 MR. CAMUS: Yes.

6 MR. MEADOWS: So you've brought evidence
7 now, you have evidence now that may not have been
8 intentionally withheld from you, but certainly
9 wasn't volunteered to you. Because we've had all
10 kinds of reports, Mr. George has already given me
11 all kinds of reports. And you know what? Those
12 emails were missing. And they didn't even tell him
13 that they were missing; he had to find those. And
14 you had to find the tapes.

15 Wouldn't you think that we would draw
16 some kind of a conclusion that we had been misled?

17 I can see my time's expired, so I'll
18 yield back to the Chairman, and I thank his
19 patience.

20 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
21 gentleman.

22 I would now recognize the Ranking Member,

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1 the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Cummings, for five
2 minutes.

3 MR. CUMMINGS: With all due respect to my
4 colleague, Mr. Meadows, the claims that he has made
5 just now were given three Pinocchios by "The
6 Washington Post."

7 I want to enter into the record an
8 article dated June 24, 2014, The Letter That --
9 quote, "The Letter That Supposedly Led to the Crash
10 of Lois Lerner's Hard Drive."

11 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Without objection, so
12 ordered.

13 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you.

14 Let me -- Mr. George and Mr. Camus, I
15 really want to get to the bottom of this, because,
16 you know, Mr. George, I don't want you to -- I
17 mean, I know some of my colleagues apparently filed
18 something against you, a complaint, but there's
19 some deeper stuff going on here, and I just want to
20 understand what's happening.

21 In May 2013 -- and this troubles me a
22 lot -- Mr. George, you issued your report on the

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1 treatment of tax-exempt applicants. Your report
2 was extremely controversial because Republicans
3 used it to argue that this was a political
4 targeting against conservative groups.

5 But just a few days before you issued
6 your report, the man sitting next to you, your
7 deputy IG for investigations, Mr. Camus, sent an
8 internal email to your senior staff saying that
9 this was not political targeting.

10 I'd like to put the email up on the
11 screen. The email is dated May 2nd, 2013. And in
12 the very first line, it says he had a conversation
13 with you and they pulled more than 5,000 emails to
14 see if there was any evidence of political
15 motivation.

16 Then he says this, and I quote, "The
17 emails indicated the organizations needed to be
18 pulled because the IRS employees were not sure how
19 to process them, not because they wanted to stall
20 or hinder the application. There was no indication
21 that pulling these selected applications was
22 politically motivated," end of quote.

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1 So, Mr. George, are you aware of this
2 email, and did you know about it at the time?

3 MR. GEORGE: I am very much aware. And I
4 really want to thank you tremendously for affording
5 myself, as well as Mr. Camus, the opportunity to
6 put in the right context why he wrote that email.

7 MR. CUMMINGS: All right. Well, maybe
8 you -- let me just continue. And I'm going to
9 get -- I want him to do that, because it is
10 troubling.

11 The email also says, and I quote, The
12 email -- it says: The email traffic indicated that
13 there were clear -- unclear processing directions,
14 and the group wanted to make sure that they had
15 guidance on processing the applications, so they
16 pulled them. And then it says this, "This is a
17 very important nuance," end of quote.

18 Now, I'm going to give you a chance to
19 explain it, but I just want to finish.

20 Mr. George, your deputy inspector general
21 for investigations called this point a very
22 important point, and yet, it's not included in your

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1 report just two weeks later. And why was that?

2 MR. GEORGE: Sir, again, I would -- I
3 think it would really benefit the committee to;
4 one, get the context in which that email was
5 drafted. And, ironically, the staffer who made the
6 call not to include it in the report is seated
7 behind me, so we can give you a complete answer
8 here.

9 MR. CUMMINGS: All right. Go ahead.

10 MR. CAMUS: Mr. Cummings, I --

11 MR. CUMMINGS: And, by the way, I think
12 that this is such an important point, that since
13 the staffer isn't sworn in, if we need additional
14 information, I'm sure that we can swear him in. I
15 just wanted an answer.

16 But go ahead. Because it is quite
17 interesting. Go ahead.

18 MR. CAMUS: While the audit staff was
19 looking into the audit and finishing up their audit
20 work, they believed that somebody had said that
21 there was a directive email causing the selection
22 of those applications for improper treatment. They

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1 didn't know who sent the email; they had just heard
2 a rumor that such an email existed.

3 So they brought it to my office, and they
4 asked if we would open an investigation, at which
5 point, I declined to do so because I believed the
6 audit of the process was the appropriate treatment
7 stream, and I had no reason to believe that there
8 had been any criminal activity.

9 But I agreed to take a quick look at some
10 of the emails of the individuals involved in
11 pulling the applications to -- to do a test to see
12 if we found anything that jumped out at us that
13 would indicate there was, in fact, criminal
14 activity. So it was a very small sample, five
15 individuals who were key to the whole situation.
16 And we used keyword search terms that were provided
17 from our audit staff.

18 After we pulled the emails and we
19 searched them with those keyword search terms, we
20 determined that, based on all the traffic that we
21 had seen from that limited sample, that there was
22 nothing that rose to the level for our office to

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1 open a criminal investigation at that time.

2 And that's why the email was drafted. It
3 was in response to that, is there a, quote/unquote,
4 smoking-gun email out there that would indicate
5 that there was any type of focus? It was not a
6 full investigation, and we did look at a very minor
7 sample.

8 And that last sentence, that it's an
9 important nuance, that was to share with the staff
10 that, based on our quick peak of the emails that we
11 were looking at, again, using a limited number of
12 individuals and search terms, that there was no
13 indication at that time, looking at that sample,
14 that there was any indication of political
15 motivation in that activity.

16 MR. CUMMINGS: Mr. George, what -- go
17 ahead.

18 MR. GEORGE: Yes. And I'd like to ask
19 Gregory Kutz -- and I don't know what the protocol
20 is, Mr. Chairman, as to whether or not --

21 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: The protocol is such
22 that we will only hear from members who have been

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1 sworn in at the committee. And in fairness to all
2 members, we're only going to make available for
3 public comment those that all members on this
4 committee have had an opportunity to question.

5 So we will leave the answers to Mr.
6 George and Mr. Camus. If there's an appropriate
7 time to follow up with the individual staffers, I
8 would welcome the minority and majority to both.
9 But we need to leave the testimony with both Mr.
10 George and Mr. Camus.

11 MR. CUMMINGS: Mr. Chairman, I would like
12 a -- can I get a written response on that?

13 MR. GEORGE: I was just going to ask
14 if --

15 MR. CUMMINGS: Yeah. Give me a written
16 response in detail.

17 MR. GEORGE: -- writing.

18 MR. CUMMINGS: Make sure you get it to
19 the Chairman too. Because we are bipartisan here.

20 MR. GEORGE: Yes. Right.

21 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: In the spirit of
22 doing that, the time frame in which you do it, is

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1 that -- in the next two weeks; is that fair?

2 MR. CUMMINGS: We should be able to get
3 it this week. You know he's writing it now.

4 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: He's writing it now.
5 All right.

6 If he can get this to the committee in
7 the next few days, that would be most appropriate.
8 We may have it before the end of the hearing.

9 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: All right.

11 I will now recognize the gentleman from
12 Florida, Mr. DeSantis, for five minutes.

13 MR. DeSANTIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent
15 that the following article be entered into the
16 record. It responds to this "Pinocchio" claim
17 about the letter that was sent by Dave Camp ten
18 days before Lois Lerner's hard drive crash.

19 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: This is the "National
20 Review" article, June 25th, 2014. Without
21 objection, so ordered.

22 MR. DeSANTIS: And it makes the point

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1 that the letter didn't specifically say "targeting
2 conservative groups," that's true, but what it did
3 say was that there was -- they were concerned that
4 the IRS was targeting donors to conservative groups
5 and (c)(4) groups. And so, either way, Lois Lerner
6 would have been the person who would have been --
7 who would have been implicated in that.

8 And I think the article does a good job
9 of showing why "The Washington Post" analysis was
10 suspect.

11 Man, if I received a subpoena or the
12 government asked me to produce some documents and I
13 said, "Sorry, they're destroyed," and then it
14 turned out someone could just walk down ten days
15 later and find them all, man, I'd be in a world of
16 trouble. 300 million Americans would be in a world
17 of trouble. And yet, here, the IRS, you know, they
18 don't care.

19 Commissioner Koskinen, he's been
20 offended, almost, that we ask him questions about
21 this stuff. And to look back at his testimony now,
22 with him saying over and over again that those

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1 emails were destroyed, the tapes were gone, "Sorry,
2 guys," and then to know what was found very easily
3 by the IG, it is stunning. And it's very
4 upsetting.

5 Because we're supposed to live in a
6 Republican form of government based on law, in
7 which the people who are in positions of power are
8 still subject to the law. And, indeed, I think
9 people like Koskinen should have a higher standard
10 than the average American. Instead, this is a
11 lower standard. This type of production would
12 never be acceptable outside of Washington, D.C.
13 It's very, very frustrating.

14 Mr. Camus, you seized the tapes July 1st,
15 2014. Later that month, you submitted an affidavit
16 for a case in the District Court of the District of
17 Columbia. It was the True the Vote case, and part
18 of the issue was the production of these emails and
19 the backup tapes.

20 Do you recall being -- working with the
21 Department of Justice on that?

22 MR. CAMUS: I do.

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1 MR. DeSANTIS: And you submitted an -- I
2 think you signed your affidavit on July 17th, 2014?

3 MR. CAMUS: That -- that sounds accurate.

4 MR. DeSANTIS: And then it was filed in
5 the District Court on July 18th, 2014.

6 So in between July 4th and the time you
7 executed that affidavit, you were in contact with
8 attorneys for the Department of Justice?

9 MR. CAMUS: That is correct.

10 MR. DeSANTIS: And did you -- did they
11 ask you about the status of the backup tapes?

12 MR. CAMUS: They asked us about the
13 status of our efforts to recover email. I think it
14 was a FOIA litigation, and so any emails that we
15 uncovered would be pertinent to FOIA. So they
16 asked for us to give them a status on did we find
17 new emails; and, if not, when we would have them in
18 our -- from our search.

19 MR. DeSANTIS: So did you update them
20 that there were backup tapes filed and that you
21 were going to look into pulling emails off those
22 tapes?

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1 MR. CAMUS: I can't recall at that point
2 if we knew. I don't think we saw any emails until
3 November. So, in July, I don't believe I was aware
4 that we were going to be able to actually see any
5 emails.

6 MR. DeSANTIS: So you just knew you had
7 the backup tapes?

8 MR. CAMUS: We knew that we had the --
9 when we went to the IRS and we asked for the backup
10 tapes, I knew that they had provided 744 of the
11 backup tapes.

12 MR. DeSANTIS: Okay. And you discussed
13 the case with Joseph Sergi at the DOJ? Is that the
14 attorney you worked with?

15 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir.

16 MR. DeSANTIS: Okay. Well, let's just --
17 so they filed a pleading in that case, and I think
18 it bears the committee to follow up on that.
19 Because I'm not sure some of the representations
20 made by the Department of Justice -- well, they're
21 certainly not consistent with the facts as we know
22 now, but I don't know that they are consistent with

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1 the facts as they would have known at the time. So
2 I think that that bears investigation, and I think
3 that the committee needs to look into it.

4 This is really, really frustrating me.
5 And this has been going on now for almost two
6 years -- almost two years. And you have somebody
7 who's held in contempt -- oh, let me ask just
8 really quickly.

9 I noticed on this brief that the U.S.
10 Attorney for the District of Columbia, Ron Machen,
11 was listed Of Counsel. Did you have any -- have
12 you had any interactions with U.S. Attorney Machen
13 in this case?

14 MR. CAMUS: No, sir.

15 MR. DeSANTIS: Okay. And so Lois
16 Lerner's held in contempt. Statutes say when
17 you're held in contempt of Congress, you're going
18 to a grand jury at the District of Columbia in
19 Federal District Court. Nothing's happened.
20 Nothing's happened at all. That's coming up on
21 almost a year here in a couple months.

22 And so we have a situation where I think

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1 the IRS has figured they can systematically try to
2 thwart our efforts and there's just not going to be
3 any consequences. And I think that needs to
4 change. I think that the Congress needs to stand
5 up on behalf of the American people for the truth,
6 and I don't think we can allow this to continue to
7 go on the way it is.

8 And I yield back.

9 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
10 gentleman. Impressed with his timeliness in his
11 questioning.

12 And now recognize the gentleman from
13 North Carolina, Mr. Walker, for five minutes.

14 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 I imagine it's tough sometimes being on
16 the other side of the panel, but do appreciate it
17 and certainly respect your forthrightness there,
18 for both Mr. Camus and Mr. George.

19 I do want to target just a little bit,
20 Mr. George. How long have you worked in this
21 environment, whether it be an inspector general or
22 just overall in the government?

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1 MR. GEORGE: I started, believe it or
2 not, at the age of 17 as an intern for then Senator
3 Bob Dole and have been working on and off in
4 government for over almost 25 years.

5 MR. WALKER: Yeah. And how -- I don't
6 want to be too self-serving, but how would you say
7 your record is over that time?

8 MR. GEORGE: I've been told that I have a
9 good reputation, sir.

10 MR. WALKER: Okay. Is there anything
11 partisan about your meeting with the former
12 Chairman Issa or even with the current Chairman
13 Chaffetz, in your opinion?

14 MR. GEORGE: No. Only in that I was not
15 informed in advance that there would not be
16 representation from the minority side.

17 There's no question that, once this
18 became obvious to me, that one side was holding
19 meetings and not including the other, we
20 immediately -- and, again, I'd ask for a little bit
21 of flexibility in the use of that word -- but we
22 did change our practice and our policies. And

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1 so -- because there is no question that the Ranking
2 Member and the Chairman and others are correct; we
3 have an obligation to report to both sides.

4 MR. WALKER: Right. Have they ever
5 contacted you about having a meeting with them?
6 And if so, do you remember?

7 MR. GEORGE: I do recall getting a letter
8 from the Ranking Member about complaining that they
9 were being excluded, and that helped.

10 MR. WALKER: Would you have met with
11 them, if they asked?

12 MR. GEORGE: Would I have met with them?
13 Of course.

14 MR. WALKER: Okay.

15 MR. GEORGE: And we have.

16 MR. WALKER: All right. And before this,
17 I guess, this setting that we're facing with right
18 now, particularly in this whole hearing, have you
19 ever been accused of being partisan before in your
20 time?

21 MR. GEORGE: Never.

22 MR. WALKER: Okay. Why do you think

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1 you're the target of that? It kind of -- the
2 feeling that I'm getting tonight is that, rather
3 than the IRS and some of these issues, that you
4 guys are sort of, kind of, a target. What -- in
5 your opinion, why do you think that is?

6 MR. GEORGE: As one of the Congressmen
7 mentioned, this is a very difficult situation, and
8 it is -- it's unprecedented for my organization and
9 for me, in my professional career, to have had this
10 type of interaction and level of attention, sir, to
11 an issue that is of extreme importance to the
12 American people.

13 The Internal Revenue Service is a
14 revenue-gathering entity of the most important
15 Nation in the world. We have a voluntary
16 compliance system. People have to have trust in
17 that system. And this issue raised questions about
18 trust.

19 MR. WALKER: Most definitely, it does.
20 In fact, tonight I've heard, and I guess in
21 respect, in describing you, I've heard the words,
22 "questionable," "partisan," you're "under

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1 investigation."

2 In May of 2012, from my understanding,
3 there was nearly a year that goes by before you
4 were even reporting publicly. To me, if you were
5 truly partisan, would you have not, in the 2012
6 elections, have said something or done something
7 outwardly that would have made their case?

8 MR. GEORGE: We would have done whatever
9 the law requires. And, again, we have had an
10 extraordinary reputation, sir. "We" being at
11 TIGTA. And, really, forgive me for taking your
12 time, but the men and women who work for me are
13 some of the most topnotch federal workers I have
14 ever interacted with. And they are doing yeoman's
15 work here, putting in literally 24 hours a day on
16 this very issue, some of them.

17 So, you know, we would have reported what
18 the law required us to report and would not have
19 reported what was inappropriate at that time.

20 MR. WALKER: Sure. And being new here,
21 it's important for me to make sure the people that
22 are in the panel are rock solid, they're not

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1 partisan. And I believe everybody in the room
2 would agree with that.

3 But I will tell you, I can hear even from
4 your voice and your heart and your passion, I have
5 a lot of confidence that you are doing the right
6 job. Thank you for your work, and, Mr. Camus.

7 I yield back.

8 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
9 gentleman.

10 I now recognize the gentleman, Mr.
11 Carter, from Georgia, for five minutes.

12 MR. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 And thank you all for being here. The hour is
14 late. I know, if you're like me, you're tired.
15 But let me, again, thank you for being here, and
16 thank you specifically -- it's never been the
17 question in my mind whether or not it was -- that
18 it was duplicate material that you found, but,
19 instead, the point is you found it.

20 So I want to talk about that
21 specifically. What prompted you -- were you asked
22 to look for it?

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1 MR. CAMUS: Yes, sir. By letter from
2 Senate Finance Committee, they specifically asked
3 us to recover any emails that we possibly could.

4 MR. CARTER: Okay. So that's what was
5 the impetus for you to start looking for it?

6 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

7 MR. CARTER: And you found it, as you
8 testified, in what? -- 15 days?

9 MR. CAMUS: Yes. What we found were --
10 and it's important to note that what we found were
11 a population of emails that were relevant to the
12 investigation. But we have yet to determine, until
13 we do the match, whether or not it's new email.

14 MR. CARTER: But the point still remains
15 is that you found emails that we have been -- that
16 had, previous testimony had said that were lost and
17 couldn't be found. That is the point, correct?

18 MR. CAMUS: We believe we did find some
19 unique emails, but we won't --

20 MR. CARTER: Okay.

21 MR. CAMUS: We won't know that until --

22 MR. CARTER: I understand. I understand.

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1 I'm with you on that.

2 All right. I want to talk about standard
3 operating policy, which -- I'm in business, so
4 that's important to me, that we're following SOP
5 and best practices. I mean, all of that type of
6 thing is very important.

7 Where the emails were being stored, was
8 it in somewhat of a unique place? Or was it
9 standard that you would expect for them to be here?

10 MR. CAMUS: Where they were -- the 744
11 tapes that we initially obtained on July 1st were
12 in the backup system of the IRS Microsoft Exchange
13 Server. So they were right -- right where you
14 would expect them to be.

15 MR. CARTER: Right where you would expect
16 them to be.

17 MR. CAMUS: And when we demanded them to
18 fit that period, that's what was supplied to us.
19 Only until two weeks later do we find out -- or
20 only until two weeks ago do we find out that
21 probably the tapes that we are actually looking
22 for, we were never told about, if that makes sense.

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1 MR. CARTER: Anyway. Let me ask you
2 this: When someone's hard drive crashes, who do
3 they report it to? I mean, obviously, you had to
4 have a new computer, right?

5 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

6 MR. CARTER: You had to put in a
7 requisition that, hey, my hard drive's crashed, I
8 got to have a new -- was that done?

9 MR. CAMUS: Yes, it was.

10 MR. CARTER: So everything was followed,
11 right procedures. And that matches the time frame
12 with which Ms. Lerner is saying that her hard drive
13 did, indeed, crash?

14 MR. CAMUS: Yeah. I think the gentle lady
15 asked earlier the date -- the date that her hard
16 drive actually crashed. We believe it was June
17 11th, 2011. It was reported on June 13, 2011, to
18 the IT department.

19 MR. CARTER: Okay. So nothing unusual in
20 that respect?

21 MR. CAMUS: Correct.

22 MR. CARTER: Okay. I also heard

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1 testimony that more than one drive -- hard drive
2 had crashed and that it was -- isn't that kind of
3 unusual? I mean, all of a sudden, you've got a
4 slew of hard drives crashing right around here.

5 MR. CAMUS: Yeah, I can't comment on that
6 right now. But we will probably take a look to see
7 if that particular type of machinery, you know, the
8 type of hard drives that they were, were
9 susceptible to multiple crashes.

10 But there were individuals that were in
11 Ms. Lerner's business unit and that were involved
12 in this case that had suffered hard drive crashes
13 about the same time.

14 MR. CARTER: Again, just coincidence, I'm
15 sure.

16 But, nevertheless, again, thank you for
17 being here tonight. Thank you for reporting this
18 and for finding this. You know, I would
19 congratulate you on being great inspectors and
20 detectives, but it sounds like all you did was ask
21 the right question.

22 MR. CAMUS: We are paid to ask good

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1 questions, sir.

2 MR. CARTER: Great. Thank you.

3 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

5 We now recognize the gentleman from
6 Wisconsin, Mr. Grothman, for five minutes.

7 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. I think some of
8 these questions may be a follow-up from what was
9 asked before. They're really for -- they're really
10 Mr. Camus, but we'll go through them again.

11 Commissioner Koskinen testified that he
12 had confirmed that Ms. Lerner's emails were
13 unrecoverable. Have you had any findings so far
14 regarding what the IRS did to confirm that
15 information, that he would use the word that he had
16 "confirmed" it?

17 MR. CAMUS: What I know is what I've seen
18 in documents that were -- that were provided, and
19 also, the other half of the equation that I know is
20 what we were told when we attempted to recover the
21 emails.

22 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. So did they give

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1 you any idea as to why they would say it was
2 confirmed, other than just wanting it to be
3 confirmed?

4 MR. CAMUS: The only thing I could --
5 that I could say is what we did was we didn't make
6 any assumptions. We went and we questioned people
7 who would have the material, and we ran it to
8 ground ourselves.

9 MR. GROTHMAN: Yeah, I know you did. But
10 the question is: Why would Commissioner Koskinen
11 have made that statement? Do you have any -- did
12 you, in your investigation, see any reason why he
13 would have made that statement?

14 MR. CAMUS: I don't know that. But we
15 are continuing investigating that.

16 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. He testified --
17 Commissioner Koskinen had testified before Congress
18 that the backup tape emails were unrecoverable.
19 Okay. That's what he said. Do you know why he
20 would've said that? Or would that have been an
21 accurate statement?

22 MR. CAMUS: He could possibly believe

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1 that to be accurate, because they may not have
2 looked as hard as we did.

3 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. Did they give you
4 any clue as to how hard he looked? Or do you know
5 why he would have made that statement?

6 MR. CAMUS: I don't know why he would
7 make that statement. But I can tell you that, when
8 we started our search, we asked -- we asked the
9 people that we were interviewing if anybody else
10 had asked them to do the same type of the search
11 that we had, and they said no.

12 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. So you don't even
13 know -- based on your investigation, you did not
14 unturn anything, or overturn anything that would
15 indicate that they had made anything -- any real
16 investigation that you could determine?

17 MR. CAMUS: So far, we haven't seen that,
18 but we're not finished with our investigation yet,
19 sir.

20 MR. GROTHMAN: Okay. Thanks.

21 I'll yield the rest of my time.

22 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank the gentleman.

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1 Recognize the gentleman from Alabama, Mr.
2 Palmer, for five minutes.

3 MR. PALMER: I'm the guy you're looking
4 for, the last one, I guess.

5 Mr. Camus, back in 2010 -- well, I guess
6 it may have been 2013, information came out that
7 indicated that Ms. Lerner had contacted the
8 Department of Justice regarding the possibility of
9 pursuing a criminal investigation into election
10 crimes targeting 501(c)(4) organizations.

11 Do you know if any of the tapes contain
12 the emails that would cover that?

13 MR. CAMUS: I don't know that at this
14 time, sir.

15 MR. PALMER: If that were in there -- and
16 I know this is a supposition, a hypothetical -- but
17 if it were in there, would that indicate an animus
18 toward those groups, particularly in regard to what
19 we believe was going on, denying certain 501(c)(4)
20 organizations the tax status that they were
21 seeking?

22 MR. CAMUS: There could be emails that we

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1 uncover that do indicate that type of behavior, but
2 until we get to the point where we find unique
3 emails. It's hard to speculate.

4 MR. PALMER: I believe I should direct
5 this to Mr. George. If not, Mr. Camus, you can
6 answer it.

7 But the timeline that's been referenced
8 repeatedly tonight, that was based -- that was
9 based on the initial evidence that you got, the
10 initial emails. Would it be possible that the
11 timeline could change based on new evidence?

12 MR. GEORGE: Yes.

13 MR. PALMER: Okay. We had several
14 members of the inspector -- several inspector
15 generals in before this committee a few weeks ago,
16 and the hearing revolved around the fact that this
17 Administration had not always been forthcoming,
18 various agencies not always been forthcoming with
19 documents. Is there any indication that evidence
20 or documents may have been withheld? In your
21 investigation, have you had that problem?

22 MR. CAMUS: As we're not complete with

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1 our investigation yet, I can't draw a conclusion
2 that anything has been withheld from us.

3 MR. GEORGE: And --

4 MR. PALMER: I just want --

5 MR. GEORGE: Oh, excuse me.

6 MR. PALMER: Go ahead, Mr. George.

7 MR. GEORGE: Yes, sir. I was just going
8 to add too, that is the unique role that we have,
9 we as IGs have, with the agencies that we oversee.
10 Because if you don't ask the right questions and --
11 you have some authority to subpoena certain things,
12 but you can't force someone to speak to you, as of
13 now. So it would be easy for an agency to fail to
14 provide information if you don't pose the right
15 question.

16 Now, there is a proposal out there, I
17 understand, that would change that and would give
18 IGs additional authority. But, as Tim indicated,
19 he could not give you a definitive answer at this
20 stage.

21 MR. PALMER: Well, I have to wonder --
22 obviously, the big issue is the supposedly erased

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1 emails or lost emails -- but why the IRS didn't
2 inform Congress sooner that they may have had the
3 tapes that had the information on it and then
4 whether or not they were forthcoming to the
5 Inspector General's Office. Because I would assume
6 that you were asking those questions.

7 MR. CAMUS: That is correct. And we will
8 include that in our investigation.

9 MR. PALMER: My last question is: You
10 mentioned seven individuals that -- I'm not sure if
11 it was you that mentioned it or Mr. Meadows or
12 Mr. DeSantis -- and it's getting late -- but that
13 there were seven other individuals who may have
14 missing emails, as well, that were in that
15 communication circle.

16 My question is: Have you talked with
17 them?

18 MR. CAMUS: We've included them in our
19 investigation.

20 MR. PALMER: Have they secured counsel?

21 MR. CAMUS: I do not know that, sir.

22 MR. PALMER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

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1 Chairman. I yield.

2 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: I thank the
3 gentleman.

4 Now recognize the gentleman from
5 Maryland, the Ranking Member, Mr. Cummings.

6 MR. CUMMINGS: Mr. George and Mr. Camus,
7 we've spent a lot of time on the conservative
8 groups, and I want to go to -- I mean, I'm
9 concerned about the conservative groups, but I'm
10 also concerned about the progressive groups. And I
11 want to ask you about the status of your
12 investigation, the one reviewing how progressive
13 groups are treated.

14 The report you issued in 2013,
15 Mr. George, did not address progressive groups.
16 When you testified here on May 23rd, 2013, we asked
17 why you did not evaluate progressive groups, and
18 you said this, and I quote, "Because those groups
19 did not have the "Be on the Lookout Terms," "Tea
20 Party," "Patriot," or "9/12" in their names," end
21 of quote.

22 When we asked about specific reports that

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1 progressive groups were treated similarly to Tea
2 Party groups, you said this, and I quote, "I have
3 subsequently received information that you're
4 indicating may have occurred. And, as a result, we
5 will be conducting a follow-up review to determine
6 whether or not that is the case; and, if so, the
7 extent of it."

8 Do you remember that?

9 MR. GEORGE: I do, sir.

10 MR. CUMMINGS: And when you came before
11 us on July 18th, 2013, we showed you internal
12 documents indicating that progressive groups were
13 subjected to similar types of scrutiny and they
14 were also included in the training materials for
15 the "Be on the Lookout List."

16 In response, you said this, and I quote,
17 "We, just as recently as last week, received new
18 information that is disturbing and that we need to
19 pursue," end of quote.

20 Do you remember that?

21 MR. GEORGE: I -- yes, I vaguely recall
22 that, sir.

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1 MR. CUMMINGS: So that was more than a
2 year and a half ago when you said you were going to
3 do a new investigation to determine how progressive
4 groups were treated. Can you tell us where that
5 investigation stands today?

6 MR. GEORGE: Yes. What I can say is --
7 and just to make sure that everything is clear, the
8 IRS had different "Be on the Lookout Lists." And
9 the list that we were initially charged with
10 looking at was not a list that included -- was a
11 list that included the "Tea Party," "9/12,"
12 "Patriot" groups.

13 There was one tab, and people, for some
14 reason -- and I can understand why, because it
15 wasn't focused on. There was a footnote in the
16 original audit report that indicated that there
17 were groups other than, quote/unquote,
18 "conservative" groups, but that was not the purpose
19 of this review.

20 And subsequent to all of that, with
21 everything that's developed, I, at the request of
22 Members of Congress, made a commitment that we

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1 would review the handling, the treatment of,
2 quote/unquote, "progressive" groups by the IRS.

3 So we are right now in the process of
4 reviewing 17 other search criteria, including
5 "progressive," going back to 2004. And both
6 majority and minority staffs have been briefed on
7 this. And the timing is -- okay.

8 Apparently, all of this is tied in -- and
9 I was just informed, until the DOJ investigation is
10 concluded, we won't have access to certain
11 witnesses that are necessary to be interviewed, as
12 it relates to this new review.

13 MR. CUMMINGS: So you -- there -- have
14 any witnesses been interviewed with regard to the
15 progressive groups?

16 MR. GEORGE: Well, we're reviewing 600
17 cases, and so have witnesses been interviewed?
18 Not yet. Not yet.

19 MR. CUMMINGS: And --

20 MR. GEORGE: We've identified 600 cases
21 that we are going to look at, but we're stifled,
22 we're stymied by the lack of conclusion of the

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1 FBI/Justice Department --

2 MR. CUMMINGS: Now, I assume you've
3 reviewed some documents with regard to the
4 progressive groups. I guess you had to do that
5 just to determine that there are witnesses that you
6 needed to talk to, right?

7 MR. GEORGE: That's true. Yes, I've just
8 been --

9 MR. CUMMINGS: Do you know how many pages
10 you've looked at or --

11 MR. GEORGE: What's this?

12 MR. CUMMINGS: Do you know how many pages
13 of documents you've looked at with regard to
14 progressive groups?

15 MR. GEORGE: We do not know the answer to
16 that, sir.

17 MR. CUMMINGS: So you can't -- it's hard
18 for you to give us any idea as to when the
19 progressive group investigation will be complete;
20 is that right?

21 MR. GEORGE: You know, generally, a
22 review takes a year, sir. But given the importance

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1 of this matter, we'll put it on a fast track. But
2 I cannot give you a time commitment at this stage.

3 MR. CUMMINGS: But it seems like you
4 don't even have control over it, because you said
5 something about the other investigation going.

6 MR. GEORGE: And that's part of the
7 problem. We have absolutely no control over when
8 the Justice Department will, you know, conclude
9 their review so that we can have unfettered access
10 to witnesses -- unless you have information that I
11 don't have?

12 All right. That's the latest, sir.

13 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you very much.

14 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to
15 interrupt you, but I have that information in
16 response to Mr. Cummings.

17 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: We're about to
18 conclude this hearing. If you could come up and
19 hand it to him, I think that would be very
20 appropriate. Thank you.

21 MR. GEORGE: Deal.

22 CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Listen, the hour's

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1 late. I appreciate the staff who's staying here
2 working late, other Members that are here.
3 And, certainly, we appreciate you and your
4 testimony here. The work that you do within your
5 organization is vital. It's important to Congress.
6 Please let the men and women who work so hard day
7 in and day out know that it is appreciated, it is
8 needed, we do pay attention to it. And we thank
9 them for their good, hard work.

10 This committee stands adjourned.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, Stephanie Hummon, Registered
3 Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing transcript is a true and correct
5 record of the proceedings; that said proceedings
6 were taken by me stenographically and thereafter
7 reduced to typewriting under my supervision; and
8 that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor
9 employed by any of the parties to this case and
10 have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its
11 outcome.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
13 my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 7th day
14 of April, 2015.

15
16 My commission expires June 18, 2015.

17
18
19 _____

20 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
21 THE STATE OF MARYLAND

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