



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

INSPECTOR GENERAL
for TAX
ADMINISTRATION

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 23, 2010, in which you ask me "to investigate a very serious allegation that Administration employees may have improperly accessed and disclosed confidential taxpayer information." Your letter cites section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code, the provision of the United States Code which protects the privacy of Federal tax returns and their information.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. As the Inspector General charged with ensuring, among other things, the fair implementation of our Nation's system of tax administration, pursuant to Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration practice, I have ordered the commencement of a review into the matters alleged.

As you are aware, there are certain constraints on my ability to share information from our review with you in the absence of a request from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance. After completing this review, I will advise you of the results to the extent allowable by law. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 622-6500.

Sincerely,

J. Russell George
Inspector General

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
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Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Jon L. Kyl
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Jim Bunning
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable John Cornyn
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable John Ensign
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6200