

May 16, 2013

Via e-mail: oigcounsel@oig.treas.gov

Eric M. Thorson
Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Treasury
J. Russell George
Inspector General for Tax Administration
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Re: Improper Politically Motivated IRS Audits of PETA

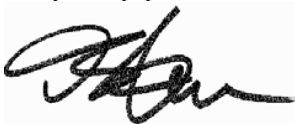
Dear Messrs. Thorson and George:

I serve as general counsel to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc. (PETA), the 501(c)(3) animal-protection charity, and I am writing to request that you please expand your current inquiry into reported Internal Revenue Service misconduct to include a detailed analysis of the three baseless audits that targeted PETA's tax-exempt status in 1990 to 1992 under the George H.W. Bush administration, in 2003 to 2005 under the George W. Bush administration, and again in 2009. I can assure you that targeted misconduct by the IRS is neither new nor limited to conservative causes.

PETA's harassment by the IRS includes the 20-month audit in 2003 to 2005 and another in 2009, both of which resulted from what the IRS agents *admitted*—and we have verified from Freedom of Information Act materials—were politically motivated attacks and pressure by members of Congress who were doing the bidding of the meat, dairy, experimentation, tobacco, and other industries whose animal-abusing practices PETA opposes. PETA came through all three audits with a clean bill of health but endured an unconscionable diversion of charity resources to fend off these attacks on its tax-exempt status, which were reminiscent of the Nixon years and tactics more commonly attributed to totalitarian regimes.

May I please hear from you as a matter of urgency that these audits will be included in a truly thorough examination of IRS tactics?

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey S. Kerr
General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs

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PETA FOUNDATION IS AN
OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

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- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)