

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 17, 2025

Ms. Lisa Manning
Partner
Schertler Onorato Mead & Sears
555 13th Street, NW
Suite 500 West
Washington D.C., 20004

Dear Ms. Manning:

Since the 118th Congress, the Committee has been conducting oversight into the unprecedented leak of protected taxpayer information by your client, Charles E. Littlejohn.¹ On January 29, 2024, the Department of Justice (DOJ) allowed Mr. Littlejohn, a former Internal Revenue Service (IRS) contractor, to plead guilty to only one count of unauthorized disclosure of tax information for leaking “thousands of individuals’ and entities’ tax returns,” including President Trump’s tax information.² Since then, the Committee has obtained information showing that the scope of the leak is much broader than the Biden-Harris Administration led the public to believe—affecting over 400,000 taxpayers.³ In light of this new information, Mr. Littlejohn’s testimony is critical to the Committee’s oversight efforts and advancement of potential legislative reforms. We therefore respectfully request his testimony.

In 2017, Mr. Littlejohn applied to work as an IRS contractor with the expressed intention of accessing and disclosing President Trump’s tax returns.⁴ Not only did Mr. Littlejohn succeed

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Nicole M. Argentieri, Acting Assistant Att’y Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Feb. 8, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Nicole M. Argentieri, Acting Assistant Att’y Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 22, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Heather M. Hill, Acting Inspector Gen., Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin. (June 21, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Douglas O’Donnell, Acting Comm., Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 20, 2025).

² Press Release, Former IRS Contractor Sentenced for Disclosing Tax Return Information to News Organizations, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Jan. 29, 2024); *U.S. v. Charles Edward Littlejohn*, No. 1:23-cr-00343, Gov’t’s Sent’g Mem. at 7 (D.D.C.; Jan. 16, 2024) (hereinafter “Gov’t Sent’g Mem.”).

³ Letter from Douglas O’Donnell, Acting Comm., Internal Revenue Serv., to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Feb. 14, 2025) (on file with the Comm.).

⁴ Gov’t Sent’g Mem., *supra* note 2 at 1-2 (“After applying to work as an IRS consultant with the intention of accessing and disclosing tax returns, Defendant weaponized his access to unmasked taxpayer data to further his own personal, political agenda, believing that he was above the law.”); *see also* C. Ryan Barber and Aruna Viswanatha, *Man Who Leaked Trump’s and Bezos’ Tax Returns Sentenced to Five Years in Prison*, WALL ST. J. (Jan. 29, 2024).

in obtaining and leaking President Trump's returns, he also disclosed "thousands of Americans' federal tax returns and other private financial information"⁵ to the *New York Times* and *ProPublica*, which together published more than 50 articles relying on the stolen information.⁶ Despite the Biden-Garland Justice Department referring to his unauthorized disclosures as "unparalleled in the IRS's history,"⁷ it only charged Mr. Littlejohn with one count of unauthorized disclosure of tax information, which resulted in a five-year prison sentence, three years' supervised release, and a \$5,000 fine.⁸ The judge who oversaw Mr. Littlejohn's sentencing, admitted that she was "perplexed" and "troubled" by the plea agreement.⁹

After Mr. Littlejohn's sentencing, the IRS began notifying and assisting affected taxpayers.¹⁰ In May 2024, an IRS spokesman stated, "[m]ore than 70,000 people received the initial notice that their information was involved in the breach."¹¹ However, in December 2024, the IRS issued a second wave of notifications to additional taxpayer victims.¹² On February 14, 2025, the IRS disclosed to the Committee that it had "mailed notifications to 405,427 taxpayers whose taxpayer information was inappropriately disclosed by Mr. Littlejohn" and that "89 [percent] of the[se] taxpayers are business entities."¹³

In light of this new disclosure that Mr. Littlejohn leaked hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' information—not just "thousands" as previously suggested—the Biden-Harris Administration's decision to charge him with just one count of unauthorized disclosure of tax information is even more concerning. The Committee has jurisdiction over criminal law and federal law enforcement pursuant to House Rule X.¹⁴ As such, to develop effective legislation, such as reforms to DOJ procedures governing plea agreements and new statutory limits of the Crime Victims' Rights Act, Mr. Littlejohn's testimony is necessary.

Accordingly, we write to request Mr. Littlejohn's testimony before the Committee on the Judiciary as soon as practicable. Please confirm his appearance before the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025. We will also work with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to facilitate his testimony in a timely manner. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

⁵ Gov't Sent'g Mem. at 1.

⁶ The Editorial Board, *Going Easy on a Tax-Return Heist*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 17, 2023).

⁷ Gov't Sent'g Mem. at 9.

⁸ Robert Legare, *Ex-IRS contractor Charles Littlejohn, who admitted leaking Trump's tax records, sentenced to 5 years in prison*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 29, 2024).

⁹ *U.S. v. Charles Edward Littlejohn*, No. 1:23-cr-00343-ACR, Statement of Unrecorded Proceedings, (D.D.C.; Jan. 8, 2025).

¹⁰ Erin Schilling, *Rich Taxpayers in Dark About What IRS Data Was Illegally Leaked*, BLOOMBERG LAW (May 10, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² See e.g., Erick Erickson (@EWErickson), X (Dec. 16, 2024, 4:42 PM), <https://x.com/EWErickson/status/1868773649647649021>. Tax practitioners have also notified the Committee of individuals receiving notice in December that their protected taxpayer information was leaked by Mr. Littlejohn.

¹³ Letter from Douglas O'Donnell, Acting Comm., Internal Revenue Serv., to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Feb. 14, 2025).

¹⁴ Rules of the House of Reps., R. X(l), 119th Cong. (2025).

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a cursive "Jordan".

Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member