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JENNY BETH MARTIN TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON IRS TARGETING

*Tea Party Patriots Granted Tax-Exempt Status on Eve of
Congressional Hearing*

ATLANTA, GA— Today, **Tea Party Patriots** co-founder **Jenny Beth Martin** testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs on the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative groups. Ms. Martin revealed to the committee that Tea Party Patriots' long-sought tax-exempt status was granted one day before the hearing.

"Tea Party Patriots received a call just before the hearing. The IRS finally has decided -- after 3 years, 2 months, and 10 days, after thousands of man-hours, after tens of thousands of dollars in legal and accounting fees -- to approve our 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status. And this is not political?"

Ms. Martin also commented on pending IRS regulations that can impede organizations.

"One of the most egregious is the requirement that we track, calculate, and report the activities of thousands of volunteers. The army of citizens who volunteer for their country is the backbone of every group in America: tea party, moderate, or progressive. Volunteerism is one of our greatest character traits. These proposed regulations would treat volunteers as a problem, annihilating relationships that are at the heart of an informed electorate.

The proposed rules create cracks in the trust that is the foundation of our nation. A government of the people, by the people, and for the people must trust the people, and the people must trust the government. When the people are afraid of a government agency, when they see that agency as a bunch of bullies who abuse power, the trust is shattered. Free people should not fear a politicized bureaucracy that delves into their social media and communications to determine what they said, whom they heard speak, and what they think about their government.

"Today, Tea Party Patriots will celebrate its fifth anniversary. Born out of a desire for more freedom and economic opportunity, this victory is a substantial one for the Tea Party movement. There are many others whose lives and businesses are being upset by the IRS. Congress must rein in this office and protect the basic rights of Americans," said Ms. Martin.

Tea Party Patriots is a national grassroots coalition with more than 3,400 locally organized chapters and more than 15 million supporters nationwide. *Tea Party Patriots* is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting the principles of fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government, and free markets. Visit *Tea Party Patriots* online at www.TeaPartyPatriots.org.

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