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## Tea Party Patriots Reacts to New Developments in IRS Harassment of Tea Party Groups

**Washington, D.C.** – Today the **Tea Party Patriots**, the nation's largest tea party organization, released the following statement:

"Yesterday we learned that the IRS lied to Congress and the American citizens when Douglas Schulman said there was '[absolutely no targeting](#)' of tea party groups who applied for nonprofit status. Today we are learning that the IRS lied when they said that only 'low-level employees' were to blame for outrageous and egregious overreach and abuse of power," said **Jenny Beth Martin, National Coordinator for Tea Party Patriots**. "The [AP is reporting](#) in June 2011, IRS division head Lois Lerner instructed employees to change the criteria for flagging groups immediately' and in August, 2011 the IRS' Rulings and Agreements office 'held a meeting with chief counsel so that everyone would have the latest information.'

"The IRS lied. They lied before Congress in 2011 and they lied again yesterday. We must know how many more lies they have been telling and how high up the chain the cover-up goes.

"It appears the IRS committed crimes and violated our ability to exercise our First Amendment Right to Free Speech. A simple apology is not sufficient reparation for violating the Constitutional rights of United States citizens. Therefore, Tea Party Patriots rejects the apology from the Internal Revenue Service.

"We are, however, encouraged to hear that Congress plans to investigate. Those responsible must be held accountable and resign or be terminated for their actions.

"We are currently working with our legal counsel to determine how to regain the tremendous amounts of money, time, and other resources that were wasted and lost because of this violation by the IRS.

"Over the last four years, Tea Party Patriots have repeatedly stood up against the consolidation of power by the ruling elite in this country. We will not stand idly by while unelected bureaucrats and elected representatives disregard the fact they are supposed to be public servants and instead act as rulers to increase their own personal power and political position. We will fight this problem with the IRS and we will win because our freedom depends on our ability to exercise our Constitutional rights."

**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](http://www.TeaPartyPatriots.org).*

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