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## **Statement by Tea Party Patriots Co-founder Jenny Beth Martin on Revelations that the Internal Revenue Service “Lost” More than Two-Years of Lois Lerner’s Email**

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, issued the following statement in response to revelations that the IRS had lost over two years of Lois Lerner’s Emails.

“This story about Obama’s IRS ‘losing’ more than two years worth of Lois Lerner’s email is as absurd as the claim that 18 ½ minutes of tape recorded conversations between President Nixon and Chief of Staff Bob Haldeman were “accidentally” erased. It doesn’t pass the smell test and smacks of obstruction of justice.

Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Dave Camp (R-Mich.) and others in Congress need to continue their work to find out who at the IRS is responsible for the illegal targeting of groups seeking tax exempt status. They may also need to expand their investigation to find out who is responsible for more than two years worth of “lost” email involving the one IRS official held in contempt of Congress for refusing to tell the truth about this targeting.

The Department of Justice should have been investigating this all along but the inquiry has been so corrupted that now, the only way to get to the bottom of this is through an independent counsel.

How is it that so many emails were simply ‘lost?’ Why was there no data back-up? Why are we only hearing about these “lost” emails now - more than a year after the investigation began? What are the forensic experts at the FBI and NSA doing to recover these “lost” emails? There are far too many questions indicting this administration to expect the president’s political appointees to conduct a credible investigation.

The more we look at this IRS targeting of conservative groups, the uglier it gets. We hope Congress is able to drain this quagmire of corruption and get to the truth. The American taxpayers deserve to know the truth about the extent to which their government will go in its intimidation of citizens and its attempts to cover up the truth.”

**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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