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McDermott Bullies Tea Party Groups at Hearing

Washington Rep. Blames IRS Victims for Targeting

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Tea Party Patriots (TPP)**, the nation's largest tea party organization which was also targeted by the IRS, slammed Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) for his comments at yesterday's IRS hearing in which he said victims of IRS targeting were "asking for it."

"In Jim McDermott's mind, if a citizen holds conservative beliefs, they should know better than to tangle with the most powerful agency within the United States government. He believes it is the victims' fault for applying for nonprofit status, and that if they didn't want to be discriminated against, then they shouldn't have applied and dared to utilize the same tax laws that liberal organizations use," said **Keli Carender, National Coordinator for Tea Party Patriots**.

"This piggish, thuggish, arrogant display from Representative McDermott goes right to the heart of the issue of IRS discrimination against conservative organizations," said Carender. "There are people in our government, both elected like Representative McDermott and unelected like the IRS bureaucrats that carried out the discriminatory orders from above, that believe they possess the inherent wisdom, moral authority and power to discriminate against fellow citizens because of their political or religious beliefs.

"They see nothing wrong with denying some people their Constitutional and natural right to free speech and free association, or harassing, bullying, and intimidating them to shut up and remove themselves from the civil and political process. These bullies are tyrants in nice suits, using their positions of power to rule over and oppress free people, and if you oppose this abuse, Representative McDermott will say that you are to blame for any punishment you face as a result of speaking out against it."

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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