

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
MARK L. PRYOR, ARKANSAS
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA

TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

RICHARD J. KESSLER, STAFF DIRECTOR
KEITH B. ASHDOWN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 18, 2013

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

Thank you for your prompt response to my June 3, 2013, letter regarding the Department of Treasury's conference spending, though I am deeply concerned by the substance of the response. Moreover, the original request for information I made more than a year ago remains unanswered. I would greatly appreciate you correcting this problem by sending the information to my office as soon as possible.

In my June 3, 2013, letter I explained how I requested information on April 16, 2012, related to all conferences attended by employees of the Department of Treasury. Once it was revealed by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration that more than \$4 million was spent on a single conference, I instructed my staff to review the information provided by the Treasury Department. The response provided by the department, however, omitted all information about this and all other conferences at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Rather than accepting responsibility for the error, however, the department's most recent letter from June 6 provided a tenuous explanation. According to the letter, the mistake arose when the department received two different requests within a week of one another—one from me and one from Representative Darrell Issa. A separate request was made to the IRS by Rep. Issa, however, whereas my request asked for all of the department's information at once. In the confusion that ensued the department said it sent a response to me that excluded IRS information, just as it did to Rep. Issa.

This "dog ate my homework" response does not excuse the department from its responsibility to respond fully to all reasonable requests from Congress. In fact, a response such as this raises questions about whether the department takes any Congressional inquiries seriously as it should.

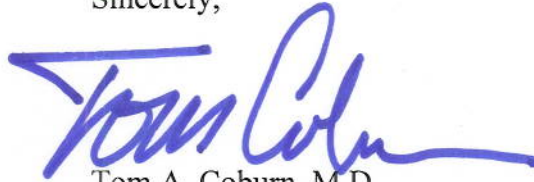
Furthermore, Treasury provided all of the policies and guidelines for the department *including* the IRS. It is unclear why Treasury was able to provide information regarding the IRS for this part of the request, but did not include the actual data on the conferences.

To date, despite providing "guidance on conferences and travel," Treasury has still not fully responded to the original request. The letter requested a full listing of every conference attended

by an employee of the Treasury Department. Treasury has provided a list of five conferences attended over a 7 year period of time, as well as the Anaheim conference in the June 6, 2013, response.

Therefore, in accordance with the initial request, please provide a full listing of all conferences that Treasury sponsored, or paid to send employees to for the last three fiscal years, including the IRS and all other Treasury bureaus. I would greatly appreciate you responding to this request by July 5, 2013. If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff contact Patrick Bailey of my staff at 202-224-4751.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
Ranking Member