

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2004

The Honorable Mark W. Everson
Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service
Department of the Treasury
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 3000
Washington, DC 20224-0002

Dear Commissioner Everson:

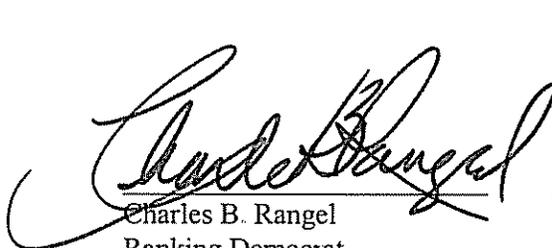
We are writing to express our outrage that, less than a week before the Presidential election, the Internal Revenue Service has acted to start an investigation of the NAACP. As the Ranking and Senior Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, we request an immediate written report on the matter.

First, it is obvious that the timing of this IRS examination is nothing more than an effort to intimidate members of the NAACP, and the communities the organization represents, in their get-out-the vote effort nationwide. Apparently, the few facts that the IRS uses to justify its attack on the NAACP show that the organization was well within the bounds of legal speech by a tax-exempt organization. It is not against the tax law for the NAACP, or any tax exempt organization, to discuss or oppose various aspects of the Bush Administration's policies. We demand to know why the current Administration, through the IRS, is attacking the NAACP..

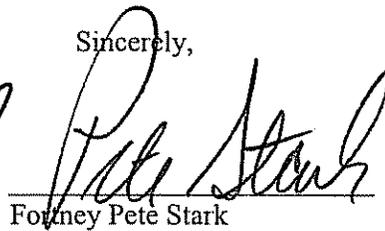
Second, the timing of the IRS's action to investigate the IRS is extremely suspect. The speech took place over three months ago, shortly after President Bush's refusal to meet with the organization at its annual convention. The NAACP had hoped for the traditional participation of the President and his refusal caused great concern to the organization. Given these facts, we demand to know who (inside or outside of the government) requested that the IRS initiate an examination of the NAACP, for the purpose of challenging its tax-exempt status, and when this decision was made.

Finally, to allow the IRS to threaten the most respected civil rights organization in the United States with revocation of tax-exempt status has political implications that far exceed the merits of any possible technical tax case against the NAACP. The chilling effect of the IRS's attack on the NAACP will be felt by the tax-exempt community at large and cannot go unchallenged. We demand that you publicly, specifically and immediately repudiate the recent actions of the IRS taken against the NAACP.

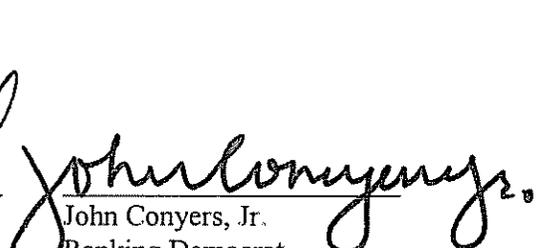
Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Democrat
Committee on Ways and Means



Fortney Pete Stark
Ranking Democrat
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means



John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Democrat
Committee on the Judiciary