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Congress of the United States
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AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPUTY WHIP
COMMISSIONER:
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
ON EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGY

July 24, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Werfel
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Werfel,

I write to you today to express my concerns regarding the increased rate of weapon purchases by the Internal Revenue Service. While I recognize the Criminal Investigation division has a law enforcement role, recent reports have indicated that the IRS has made substantial purchases of weaponry and tactical gear. As a civilian agency whose stated mission is to “Provide America’s taxpayers top-quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and enforce the law with integrity and fairness to all,”¹ the increasing militarization of the IRS is of growing concern.

A watchdog organization recently released a report noting the IRS spent nearly \$10 million to stockpile weapons, ammunition, and gear since 2020. The report also mentions the purchase of tactical lighting, optical sights, ballistic helmets, and other items.² In light of these recent actions, I am writing to request the following:

1. Information on the account(s) the IRS has used to purchase such weapons, gear, and ammunition.
2. Data on the quantity and type(s) of items listed below in possession of the IRS:
 - Weapons
 - Weapons systems
 - Ammunition
 - Explosive devices
 - Armored vehicles
 - Drones/UAVs
 - Chemical weapons (tear gas and other calming agents)
3. I’d also like to request data on the types of modifications to IRS-issued weapons that have been approved by the UOF Senior Analyst, NCITA, and the number of such

¹ “1.1.1 IRS Mission and Organizational Structure: Internal Revenue Service.” *1.1.1 IRS Mission and Organizational Structure / Internal Revenue Service*, 30 July 2019, www.irs.gov/irm/part1/irm_01-001-001#:~:text=The%20IRS%20mission%3A,IRS%20should%20perform%20that%20role.

² “The Militarization of Federal Bureaucracy - Updated Statistics through March 31, 2023.” *Open The Books*, 27 Apr. 2023, www.openthebooks.com/the-militarization-of-federal-bureaucracy---updated-statistics-through-march-31-2023/.

requests that have been approved. As background, Part 9 of the Internal Revenue Manual, titled Criminal Investigation, outlines the modifications that can be made to weapons and process for exceptions.

It is important for Congress to conduct thorough oversight of IRS, and the American people deserve to have a full accounting of these recent events. Thank you for your attention to this request, and I would ask that you please respond to my office within five business days.

Sincerely,



STEPHANIE BICE
Member of Congress