



April 20, 2016

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of more than 2.8 million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I write in strong support of your legislation, S. 2809, which would provide several important protections for taxpayers from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and its concerning audit practices.

Your legislation would prohibit the IRS from its current practice of outsourcing audits of American taxpayers to third parties. Often these are outside law firms that charge as much as \$1,000 an hour to the American taxpayer. It's concerning that this scandal-plagued agency is spending millions of tax dollars on high-priced attorneys to do the work that government bureaucrats are already being paid to do.

“The IRS has over 40,000 employees dedicated to enforcement efforts, including more than 36,000 tasked specifically with exams and collections,” Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hatch noted in a [letter](#) to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen this past year, wisely raising questions about this practice. “If none of these employees... have sufficient expertise to undertake the examination at hand, we should have a broader conversation about your agency’s hiring practices.” Chairman Hatch deserves answers, and taxpayers deserve accountability.

Your legislation includes a number of additional significant provisions that would protect taxpayers. It affirms that taxpayers have an opportunity to bring cases to the IRS Office of Appeals for administrative review. It also cuts down on inappropriate examination practices that elongate case timelines.

AFP applauds your leadership in protecting taxpayers from the IRS. We support this legislation and similar efforts to rein in this unelected, unaccountable federal agency, and we urge your colleagues to support it.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Americans for Prosperity

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 2.8 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 35 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*

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