May 12, 2022

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Van Hollen and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

We respectfully request that you not include any riders prohibiting the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from promulgating rules related to political spending in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill.

Since Citizens United, a flood of dark money has entered our political system. 501(c)(4) organizations are often the beneficiaries of these funds, using them to engage in political activity.

Past appropriations bills have included several objectionable policy riders, including a rider preventing the IRS from revising or issuing new rules governing the political spending of 501(c)(4) organizations. These riders render the IRS unable to provide clear guidance to nonprofits on what types of activities are permissible. These riders are unnecessary because the rulemaking process itself provides ample opportunities for public debate and dissent to ensure that the rulemaking reflects the interests of the public.

To ensure that the FY 2023 FSGG bill enables agencies to effectively carry out their duties and serve the American people, we urge you to refrain from including policy riders that would impede the IRS’s ability to proceed with necessary and appropriate rules governing political activity.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

Jon Tester  
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator