



By Email and Mail

December 4, 2017

The Honorable Eric M. Thorson
Inspector General
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 4436
Washington, DC 20220

Re: *Request for Further Investigation into Treasury Tax Analysis*

Dear Inspector General Thorson:

I understand that the Office of the Inspector General has launched a “top priority” inquiry, in response to questions regarding whether “the Treasury Department has used extensive taxpayer funds to conduct economic analyses that it refuses to release because those analyses would contradict the Treasury secretary’s claims, or Secretary Mnuchin has grossly misled the public about the extent of the Treasury Department’s analysis.”¹ In the course of that inquiry, I respectfully request that OIG investigate additional misleading statements made by the Department about the Administration’s tax reform framework as well as efforts to conceal conflicting and longstanding analysis by career employees.

As described in the attached Request for Correction filed by Democracy Forward pursuant to the Information Quality Act, the Department publicly disseminated misleading and unreliable information in violation of the IQA by asserting that the average American household would benefit by “\$4,000–9,000”² under President Trump’s tax proposal and that “70 Percent”³ of the corporate tax burden falls on American workers. Both claims lack credible justification, and the 70 percent figure has been refuted by a 2012 study by Treasury economists that the Department subsequently removed from its website.⁴

¹ Jim Puzanghera, *Inspector General Launches Inquiry into Whether Treasury Hid Republican Tax Bill Analysis*, L.A. Times (Nov. 30, 2017, 2:46 PM), <http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-pol-essential-washington-updates-inspector-general-launches-inquiry-into-1512084180-htmlstory.html>.

² @AmericaNewsroom, Twitter (Oct. 18, 2017, 1:23 PM), <https://twitter.com/americanewsroom/status/920701913615781890>.

³ Catherine Rampell, *The Report Trump Officials Don’t Want You to See*, Wash. Post (Oct. 2, 2017), https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-report-trump-officials-dont-want-you-to-see/2017/10/02/f6c77a6c-a7ab-11e7-850e-2bdd1236be5d_story.html?utm_term=.bddd40535552.

⁴ Richard Rubin, *Treasury Removes Paper at Odds with Mnuchin’s Take on Corporate-Tax Cut’s Winners*, Wall Street J. (Sept. 28, 2017 6:41 PM), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/treasury-removes-paper-at-odds-with-mnuchins-take-on-corporate-tax-cuts-winners-1506638463>.



I am therefore asking that OIG include these statements and efforts to conceal contradictory analysis as part of its ongoing investigation.

Sincerely,

Anne Harkavy
Executive Director
Democracy Forward Foundation

Enclosure