EXHIBIT A

![Democracy Forward logo]

FOIA Request - Tax Reform Meetings

1 message

FOIA Requests <foia@democracyforward.org>　　　　　　Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 4:33 PM
To: TreasFOIA@treasury.gov

July 25, 2017

Kody Kinsley
Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief FOIA Officer
FOIA/PA Request
FOIA and Transparency
Department of the Treasury
Washington, DC 20220
TreasFOIA@treasury.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Records Request

Dear Mr. Kinsley:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq*., and the Department of Treasury FOIA regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Democracy Forward Foundation makes the following request for records.

As part of the Trump administration's stated goal to overhaul the tax code, the White House released a set of principles in April 2017 that included its intent to hold "listening sessions with stakeholders" as part of the process. On July 17, 2017, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer specified that "[w]e've had well into the hundreds, if not close to a thousand listening sessions with different entities -- so the number of entities, not the number of meetings."

According to reporting in Politico, NEC Chair Gary Cohn and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and their staff have served as point persons on meeting with outside stakeholders and members of Congress on any potential tax reform legislation. This includes a weekly meeting of the "Big Six" - Cohn, Mnuchin, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch, and House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady.

Although some of these listening sessions and meetings have been publicized by the Administration, others are only known because of the participating special interest group. Given the implications of tax reform will affect nearly every single person and business in America, the public deserves to know the full details of listening sessions and meetings conducted by the Administration.

Democracy Forward Foundation requests that the Department of Treasury produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All calendars including meetings and listening sessions on tax reform by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Justin Muzinich, and all other members of the Office of Secretary. including and not

limited to meetings with Gary Cohn, Shahira Knight,   members of congress, and outside stakeholders.

2. All correspondence and records relating to tax reform by members of the Office of Secretary, including any material prepared before or in response to meetings and listening sessions. Correspondence searches should include communications between members of the Office of Secretary, and Gary Cohn, Shahira Knight, members of congress, and outside stakeholders.

3. Any list of tax reform meetings, listening sessions, or similar events, as well as any list of participants of said meetings, any agendas or schedules for those meetings, and any minutes or summaries of those meetings or memoranda summarizing those meetings.

4. All correspondence, attachments, and records regarding tax reform that were either sent to, received by, or otherwise involve David Knautter, nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary on Tax Policy.

5. All records from outside stakeholders regarding potential proposals for tax reform received by the Treasury Department as part of its meetings and listening sessions.

The time period for this request is January 20, 2017, to the date the search is conducted. For speed of processing, rolling release of records, particularly meetings and participants, is acceptable and encouraged.

Please search for records regardless of format or medium, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, slack conversations, instant messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Furthermore, given the Managing Government Records Directive and policies such as Capstone, Democracy Forward Foundation requests searches of all the most complete repositories of information maintained by the department alongside with custodian driven searches. Do not omit searches of files or records maintained personally by any officials, including personal email accounts.

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us

with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Democracy Forward Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) and dedicated to educating the public about the operation of the federal government. The records we obtain from this request will be used to support those public education efforts, and we intend to disseminate publicly an analysis of those records. As a nonprofit organization, we do not have a commercial interest in the records. We therefore request a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records in response to this request under the exception at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), which requires waiver of fees if the disclosure is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." If our request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to $250. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within the 20 day period, please contact Josephine Morse as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org or (202) 448-9090.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s

Josephine Morse
Democracy Forward Foundation