

Donald R. Signer
[REDACTED]
Fremont, CA 94539

December 8, 2011

Ms. Stephanie Douglas
Special Agent in Charge
FBI San Francisco
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 13th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-9523

Dear Ms. Douglas:

I write to inform you of the FBI's response to an issue I reported on September 1, 2011. The issue involves what clearly appears to be wrongdoing by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) in its response (or lack thereof) to a complaint I filed. Now, a series of events causes me concern that the FBI is avoiding investigating my allegations about TIGTA's wrongdoing that I have meticulously documented – proven in my opinion – and furnished to the FBI. In the following, I will summarize the history as briefly as possible. I have added the document-supported TIGTA story to my website, donsigner.com. The website describes my unbelievable experiences as a General Motors dealer, in which GM engaged in many corrupt acts to harass me out of business.

Complaint to TIGTA

I became a General Motors (GM) dealer in Fremont, California, in 1980, and then relocated to neighboring Newark at in 1995. Following is a brief timeline of events leading up to the TIGTA complaint. I wish to make it clear that my observations of intentional wrongdoing by the various parties are my opinion only, but are overwhelmingly supported by extensive documentation on donsigner.com.

- 2005 and beyond: After years of attempting unsuccessfully to convince me to sell my business for its desired factory takeover of Newark GM dealerships, GM initiated a series of harassment acts to induce my exit, two of which were unprecedented IRS audits in 2005 and 2008.
- April 2009: I filed a claim for refund of the six-figure tax the IRS assessed in the 2008 audit.
- June 2009: With the full support of the Treasury Department's Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry and the Obama Administration, GM terminated my franchises and hundreds of others nationally when it received the Treasury Department's controversial \$50 billion TARP bailout. GM then gave my franchises to its favored, factory-backed dealer next door after it destroyed everything I had ever worked for.
- June 2010: I filed a detailed and document-supported complaint with TIGTA alleging that GM and the IRS had conspired in the audits to harass me into conceding to its wishes. I believe that the content of my complaint letter left no reasonable doubt of the accuracy of my observations.

- October 2010: After a very bizarre process reviewing my claim for refund, the IRS finally admitted its 2008 audit was wrong, and in 2011 refunded me \$121,000 with interest.

TIGTA response to my complaint

- December 2010: After my multiple status requests to TIGTA about my June complaint, and under pressure from two Members of Congress who had inquired on my behalf, TIGTA finally contacted me and (falsely I would later learn) led me to believe it would conduct a criminal investigation of my allegations. I subsequently attempted to obtain status reports, but was denied due to confidentiality reasons, after which I made a FOIA request for file documents.
- April 2011: TIGTA informed the two inquiring Members of Congress in deceptively-worded letters that clearly implied, but carefully did not directly state, that the office had conducted an investigation of my allegations. TIGTA stated that it “found no evidence” of GM/IRS harassment conspiracy.
- June 2011: After two FOIA requests and an appeal to obtain meaningful file documents, I finally received TIGTA documents that state that **TIGTA did not investigate my allegations**, thus proving that, in truth, TIGTA “found no evidence” because it didn’t look. Several of the file documents contain false statements contributing to investigation avoidance in what clearly appears to be a cover-up of the facts that confirm my allegations.
- July-September 2011: In staged progression moving up the organizational chart of TIGTA and the Treasury Department, I sent detailed letters to the top three officials at TIGTA, and then to Treasury Secretary Geithner and President Obama, alleging a cover-up and inviting their responses. I only received one response; a two-paragraph letter from the Principal Deputy Treasury Inspector General that contained the same deceptively worded statements as in the letters to the Members of Congress. He did not deny my allegation of a cover-up, or any of the factors that led to my observation.

Summary of TIGTA’s response to my complaint: The Treasury Department and GM became, and remain today, business partners as a result of the TARP bailout in 2009. President Obama and Treasury Secretary Geithner went out on a limb with the controversial auto bailout. GM and the IRS conspired to damage me before the bailout, and then GM and the Treasury Department supported GM’s confiscation of the businesses of targeted GM dealers, including me, at the time of the bankruptcy/bailout. As these are actions that one would not believe could happen in America, TIGTA’s confirmation of my allegations would likely create outrage in the view of fair-minded U. S. taxpayers, and reflect very negatively on GM and the Treasury Department, as well as the creators of the TARP bailout. As I stated in my letters to Treasury Department officials, there would appear to be a strong motive at the top of the Treasury Department to make the story go away quietly.

Report to the FBI

As TIGTA’s role is to monitor fraud, waste, and abuse within the IRS, in my opinion TIGTA itself has committed fraud. After Secretary Geithner failed to respond to my letter to him, I contacted the U. S. Attorney General’s office and explained the situation. The representative responded that I needed to contact the FBI to initiate an investigation, which would in turn provide the information to the U. S. Attorney General’s office after completion. Following is the timeline of my contact with the FBI beginning September 1, 2011.

- September 1: I made contact with an unidentified Agent at the Palo Alto FBI office and explained my situation. I informed him of my website, which he said he would read, and then call FBI white-collar crime people.
- September 6: I re-contacted the Palo Alto Agent to update him on a new item, at which time he told me that he had informed the San Jose white-collar crime unit about my website, and that they would review it to determine if there is enough to open a case.
- September 14: As I felt it was important to provide something more tangible than the telephone call, I visited the San Jose FBI office with a printed explanation and set of supporting documents to formalize the telephone discussion. I met with an unidentified Duty Agent, who informed me that there was a record of my discussion with the Palo Alto Agent. He took notes, but refused to accept my package of documents. After further discussion, he agreed to accept a short cover letter from the package.
- September 21: At a men's club dinner in Fremont, San Jose FBI Agent [REDACTED] spoke to the group. After he spoke, I privately told him about the above FBI contacts, and asked for any insight he could give me about what would be done with my case. He said he would check and call me.
- September 29: [REDACTED] informed me that there is a record of my report, and it will be reviewed. He told me that I had reported the issue to the right people. He suggested I wait a month or so to hear from the FBI, and if I didn't hear from anybody within that time, that I should visit the San Jose office again and inquire about the status.
- November 18: I visited the San Jose office and met with a different unidentified Duty Agent. I asked about the status of my report about TIGTA, to which his vague reply did nothing to give me confidence that anything had been done. I handed him the envelope containing my description of TIGTA's actions, along with many supporting documents from the TIGTA internal file. I told him that the first Agent I met with wouldn't accept the package, to which he asked why not. I responded that I didn't know. He told me he would read the package and call me. I asked him when I would hear from him, to which he replied "next week."
- November 23: As it was Thanksgiving week, after not hearing from him by Wednesday at 11:40 AM, I called and left him a message with the receptionist. She said the office would be open Friday after Thanksgiving, so I asked that the Agent call me by Friday as he promised.
- November 25: After not hearing by 3:15 on Friday, I called and left another message with the same receptionist.
- November 28: After still not hearing from the Agent, I left him a voice mail at 4:20.
- December 1: After still not hearing from the Agent, I left a voice mail for [REDACTED], the Agent I had met on September 21, and talked with again on September 29. I left a message about the Agent's not calling me as he said he would to, and asked [REDACTED] to call me.

As of this writing, I have heard nothing from either of the above Agents, and it is apparent that I never will. While [REDACTED] is not involved in the case, and his research and call to me after I met him at the men's club dinner were done as a courtesy, the unnamed Agent I met with on November 18 committed to call me. Since he has not done so, it is apparent to me that he has been instructed not to contact me, as most likely has anybody else involved in my case.

I recognize that the FBI has a large caseload of high priority items. However, I have virtually completed the investigation of my complaint, and given it to the FBI with documented support showing the names of the many people at TIGTA involved. About the only thing left for the FBI to determine is who gave to orders for what I believe I have proven to be a TIGTA cover-up of GM/IRS conspiracy to harass me in 2005 and 2008.

Disturbingly, the FBI's lack of response to me seems eerily similar to TIGTA's avoidance of action on my well-documented complaint about GM/IRS collusion. I have seen on the FBI website that the White-Collar Crime Division investigates government corruption, and uses Inspectors General of Federal Agencies to assist. As TIGTA is an Inspector General, my complaint involves an FBI ally, which makes for an awkward investigation, similar to TIGTA investigating the Treasury's business partner, GM.

I ask that you investigate what I have described above, much of which also appears on donsigner.com. I also ask that you, or somebody in authority at either the San Francisco or San Jose FBI office, contact me with a response to my serious concerns described above. I may be reached at home at [REDACTED] or on my cell at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald R. Signer".

Donald R. Signer

Cc: U. S. Congressman Pete Stark
U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer