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Beware of politicians who claim they hate the IRS, Libertarians warn

Even on April 15th, politicians love the agency that Americans hate

WASHINGTON, DC — Politicians claim they hate the IRS.

Don't believe them, say the Libertarians, the only political party whose platform pledges to abolish America's most feared agency.

"Republicans and Democrats have a love-hate relationship with the IRS: Every time April 15th rolls around, they love to tell us how much they hate it," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. "But their actions prove that they love it far more than they hate it. Here's why the IRS will never be abolished — as long as Democrats and Republicans wield power."

■ **It fuels the expansion of government.** "Thanks to the Republican-controlled Congress, this year's federal budget is the largest ever: \$1.7 trillion," Dasbach noted.

"Eliminating the IRS would mean pulling the plug on programs that politicians say they want to end, but really don't, such as corporate welfare, foreign aid, and the National Endowment for the Arts."

■ **It can be used to bludgeon political opponents.** "The Joint Committee on Taxation is probing charges that President Clinton deployed IRS auditors against dozens of conservative groups such as the Heritage Foundation and the NRA," Dasbach pointed out. "Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton *both* compiled enemies lists and dispatched IRS henchmen to harass them. Using the tax agency as a political weapon is a tradition that both parties will fight to protect."

■ **It is being used to circumvent the Constitution and expand politicians' control over our personal lives.** "Congress has given the IRS incredible powers — including the ability to tap into private bank accounts and seize property without a warrant — which clearly violate the Fourth Amendment," Dasbach said.

In fact, politicians have even given IRS bureaucrats a financial incentive to deprive Americans of their property. "The Senate Finance Committee has acknowledged that managers reward employees who seize taxpayers' property by giving them bonuses," Dasbach said.

"So next time you hear a Democrat or Republican claim they hate the IRS, don't believe them. They love using the agency to fund their pet programs, they love wielding it as a weapon against their political enemies, and they love the power it gives them over Americans' private lives. For taxpayers, the best way to show you hate the IRS is to vote *against* the politicians who love the IRS: Democrats and Republicans."

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