

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.165

Senator Runestad offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn the federal government's expansion of
2 the Internal Revenue Service through the Inflation Reduction Act of
3 2022.

4 Whereas, In early August of 2022, the Federal Bureau of
5 Investigation (FBI) conducted an invasive raid of the private
6 residence of former President Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort
7 in Florida. While this was an unprecedented action taken by the
8 federal government, it is no coincidence that it came at the same
9 time legislators in Washington, D.C. were seriously contemplating
10 and acting on the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which
11 opens the door for more invasive, unprecedented, and un-American
12 interference by the federal government into the lives of private
13 citizens; and

1 Whereas, The Inflation Reduction Act will allow nearly five
2 hundred billion dollars in new spending by our federal government
3 over the next decade, with almost eighty billion dollars being
4 directed to the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) budget. The budget
5 allocations of this law spell out the current Administration's big-
6 government intentions for the future of the IRS. Over forty-five
7 billion dollars will be directed to "enforcement" while a meager
8 three billion is expected to be used for "taxpayer services." As
9 part of these budgetary expansions, the IRS would hire eighty-seven
10 thousand new employees, making this agency larger than the FBI,
11 Pentagon, State Department, and Border Patrol combined. This Act is
12 not intended to benefit Americans - it is just the latest
13 development in this Administration's police state agenda; and

14 Whereas, A 2017 report by the Treasury Inspector General for
15 Tax Administration found that the IRS's Criminal Investigation
16 Division repeatedly violated the civil rights of Americans under
17 the guise of enforcing tax laws and seizing taxpayer property.
18 Michiganders are right to fear a massive budget expansion for a tax
19 collection agency that feels it necessary to undermine the rights
20 of our citizens in pursuit of collecting their hard-earned money
21 with little to no restraint; and

22 Whereas, In 1974, then-President Gerald Ford warned Congress
23 that "[a] government big enough to give you everything you want is
24 a government big enough to take from you everything you have." This
25 Administration represents just the latest installment in a half-
26 century long tradition of paying no heed to past generations'
27 commonsense understanding that government should play a minimal
28 role in our lives. As the only President who was a fellow
29 Michigander, it is appropriate for our citizens to take seriously

1 President Ford's warning and strongly condemn this massive
2 expansion of a federal agency that only exists by virtue of our
3 collective tax dollars. The Inflation Reduction Act would hand over
4 tens of billions of dollars to create an IRS big enough - and well-
5 armed enough - to take whatever it wants from our citizens whenever
6 it pleases; now, therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the Senate, That we condemn the expansion of the
8 Internal Revenue Service through the Inflation Reduction Act of
9 2022; and be it further

10 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
11 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
12 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
13 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.