



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 10, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Operation Fast and Furious was reportedly intended to crack down on the illegal flow of firearms from the United States to Mexico by tracking weapons purchased by "straw" buyers in the United States on behalf of Mexican drug cartels, which use them to fight their turf wars and terrorize communities along the border. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) oversaw this misguided and dangerous program, which ultimately facilitated the purchase and delivery of thousands of weapons directly into the hands of Mexico's most violent and notorious organized criminal organizations.

More than 2,000 weapons are linked to this operation and, to date, only about 600 of them have been recovered. Tragically, many have been located at crime scenes throughout Mexico and, worst of all, at least one has been directly involved in the murder of a federal law enforcement agent. Just two days ago, the Los Angeles Times reported that 40 of the high-powered assault weapons were found in the home of a feared leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel in Ciudad Juarez.

Of particular alarm to my state, one of the largest seizures of Fast and Furious weapons was made in El Paso, Texas, during a recent drug investigation. These weapons, in the hands of violent criminals, pose a clear and present danger to the people of Texas.

Due to the threat of these missing firearms ending up in Texas and being used against our citizens and law enforcement, I request your administration to immediately send the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) a complete list of all weapons involved in this operation, including serial numbers. I also request that Texas DPS be given access to information regarding weapons involved in any similar operations prior to and immediately following Fast and Furious, so Texas law enforcement can take appropriate action in our state to track and seize these missing firearms.

The Honorable Barack Obama
October 10, 2011
Page 2

Both ATF and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) took an irresponsible and inappropriate risk when they allowed thousands of illegally purchased weapons to disappear in Mexico. It is clear that this operation is yet another example of a failed federal strategy to secure the southwest border, the repercussions of which the states are once again left to face. Providing our state law enforcement experts with important information about these missing weapons will not make up for the dangerous Fast and Furious operation, but it will help Texas law enforcement be on the lookout for these weapons and hopefully prevent future violence from crossing the border.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a cursive-like flow.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jhp

cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, DOJ