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March 15, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Michele M. Leonhart
Administrator
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

Since January, I have been investigating the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) operation called “Fast and Furious”—part of the broader “Project Gunrunner” initiative. According to several agents, ATF leadership encouraged gun dealers to engage in sales of multiple weapons to individuals suspected of illegally purchasing for resale to Mexican cartels.

I understand from documents and other information provided that Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents were aware of Operation Fast and Furious and possibly deeply involved in the operation. Reportedly, DEA funds were used to facilitate operations in ATF’s Operation Fast and Furious.

Accordingly, in order to get a better understanding of DEA’s involvement with Operation Fast and Furious please provide all records relating to communications between supervisors and DEA headquarters regarding DEA’s involvement. Additionally, I request that you arrange for knowledgeable DEA supervisors to brief members of my staff no later than March 25, 2011.

I would appreciate a response to this letter no later than March 18, 2011. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Brian Downey at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General, United States Department of Justice