



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 28, 2010

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have recently learned that Committee staff members are in the process of contacting agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as well as an important witness involved in our pending investigation regarding gun trafficking along the Southwest Border. This investigation, known as Fast and Furious, has resulted in the indictment to date of twenty individuals for drug trafficking, gun trafficking, and money laundering. Trial is scheduled to begin on June 7, 2011 and our investigation into this activity is continuing.

On several occasions in the past, we have expressed our concerns about the risks posed to the successful prosecution of the pending case and others that may flow from our investigation by the Committee's current efforts to interview witnesses and agents. While we respect your right to conduct oversight of ATF, we are confident that you would not want that oversight to jeopardize important law enforcement efforts that are directed at stemming the violence both in the United States and Mexico that is emanating from the drug cartels in Mexico.

We are also confident that we can find a way to accommodate both your needs for oversight and the Department's needs in conducting successful investigations and bringing successful prosecutions. In this regard, we are working actively to assemble additional documents in response to your request. And, because we want to resolve the allegations that have been raised, the Attorney General referred this matter to the Acting Inspector General. We think it would be helpful for you and the Deputy Attorney General to meet to discuss these matters. We will contact your staff to schedule the meeting.

Thank you for your support for our law enforcement efforts. We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Weich".

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member