



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General, dated April 14, 2011, requesting that the Judiciary Committee receive the same access to documents that the Department provides in response to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform relating to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF's) Project Gunrunner. We understand that you make this request in connection with the Committee's oversight interests regarding the Department.

We are glad to provide you with the same access to documents that we provide to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. In response to your April 14 request, Judiciary Committee staff reviewed the first set of such documents at the Department on April 18, 2011. Enclosed with this letter are 92 pages of documents that we are providing to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee today.

We also have notified Chairman Issa that we have identified 466 pages of responsive documents that we are prepared to make available for review at the Department by his Committee staff at any convenient time. We are prepared to make the same documents available for review at the Department by Judiciary Committee staff. We have substantial confidentiality interests in these materials because of their law enforcement sensitivity. They include information about federal law enforcement strategies, policies, and practices, the disclosure of which would be helpful to individuals who seek to evade our efforts to combat drug and firearms trafficking. We have made limited redactions in these documents to protect the identities of individuals who are involved in our investigations, law enforcement techniques, and other details relating to particular investigations. These redactions are important to protect the integrity of our law enforcement efforts as well as individual privacy interests.

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Our efforts to identify documents responsive to Chairman Issa's subpoena are continuing and we will notify you if we disclose additional documents. We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we can provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'm w', likely representing Ronald Weich.

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member