

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

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

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

On March 15, 2011, Senator Grassley sent you a letter requesting a briefing to gain a better understanding of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) involvement in Operation Fast and Furious. Conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Operation Fast and Furious, was an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case. That letter is attached for your ready reference. Nearly four months later, your agency has yet to respond directly.

On April 12, 2011, the Department of Justice (DOJ) responded on behalf of DEA. In its letter, DOJ stated:

Generally speaking, . . . when another Department component leads an OCDETF investigation, DEA works cooperatively to support drug-related aspects of the investigation. Such cooperation means that DEA may share investigative expertise, report leads, and provide manpower to assist in an investigative or enforcement operation as requested by the lead investigative agency.¹

This information sharing, or lack thereof, is precisely the reason Senator Grassley made the initial request. Consequently, we request that you make arrangements by no later than July 22, 2011 for DEA supervisors and personnel with specific knowledge of details

¹ Letter from Assistant Attorney General Ronald Weich to Senator Charles E. Grassley (Apr. 12, 2011).

The Honorable Michele M. Leonhart

July 15, 2011

Page 2

related to Operation Fast and Furious and the parallel DEA case to brief members of both of our staffs.

In addition to the aforementioned briefing, please provide the following documents:

- 1) The number of informants or cooperating defendants handled by other agencies identified in the course of any investigations related to Operation Fast and Furious defendants. For each informant or cooperating defendant, please identify the other agency, the date that DEA learned of their informant or cooperating defendant's status, and a description of how the DEA learned of their informant or cooperating defendant's status.
- 2) All information related to indicted Fast and Furious suspect Manuel Fabian Celis-Acosta.
- 3) A list of all personnel designated as DEA liaisons with other federal law enforcement agencies in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Please also include any communications of the following individuals at DEA relating to Operation Fast and Furious or Manuel Fabian Celis-Acosta:

- 1) Elizabeth Kempshall, Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix
- 2) Doug Coleman, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix
- 3) Chris Feistle, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix
- 4) Albert Laurita, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Tucson
- 5) David Hathaway, Resident Agent in Charge, Nogales
- 6) Joe Muenchow, Resident Agent in Charge, Yuma

These records should include emails, memoranda, briefing papers, and handwritten notes. You should also produce communications these individuals had with any ATF employee from between October 1, 2009, and June 30, 2011.

The Honorable Michele M. Leonhart

July 15, 2011

Page 3

Please provide the documents and information requested no later than July 29, 2011. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Tristan Leavitt in Ranking Member Grassley's office at (202) 224-5225 or Henry Kerner of Chairman Issa's Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
United States House of Representatives



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

Enclosure

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

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NEW YORK
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
AL FRANKEN, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
JON KYL, ARIZONA
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

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