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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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March 15, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable John T. Morton
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Director Morton:

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 assault weapons to individuals suspected of illegally purchasing for resale to Mexican cartels.

I understand from documents in my possession that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents were aware of Operation Fast and Furious and possibly deeply involved in the operation. On March 9, at an oversight hearing of the Department of Homeland Security, I questioned Secretary Napolitano regarding possible ICE participation in Operation Fast and Furious. Secretary Napolitano indicated that she was unaware of a specific ICE Agent being part of ATF’s operation.

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

I would appreciate a response by 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 Janet Napolitano
Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security

DOJ-FF-18410