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**From:** Hoover, William J.  
**To:** McDermond, James E.; [ATF]  
**Sent:** 1/31/2011 4:44:24 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

FYI!

Billy

William J. Hoover  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives  
O) 202-648-[ATF]

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**From:** Hoover, William J.  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 11:20 AM  
**To:** Smith, Brad (ODAG) (SMO)  
**Cc:** Melson, Kenneth E.; [ATF] Michalic, Mark (ODAG) (SMO); Wilkinson, Monty (OAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

Brad,

We received a letter last week from Senator Grassley. It appears one of our special agents contacted the Senator's staff and made comments to them which were less than favorable concerning our Project Gunrunner and the Fast and Furious investigation. [DP]

[DP]

**DP**

**DP** Apparently the Senator is meeting with the Attorney General today and will have this as a topic of conversation. **DP**

**DP**

I just spoke with Monty Wilkinson of the AG's staff on another issue and informed him of this issue. You will note that I have cc'd him as well.

I will reach out to you shortly to follow up.

Billy

William J. Hoover

Deputy Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

O) 202-648-**ATF**

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**From:** **ATF**  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Hoover, William J.  
**Subject:** Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

Billy:

**ATF** just reported that he had been contacted this morning by Sen. Grassley's Chief Counsel for Investigations who related the following:

Our employee who came in to speak with them advised that he/she had advised his/her chain of command that he/she was coming in to speak to Sen. Grassley's staff as required by orders. Upon return, the employee was "called to the carpet," caused to participate in two meetings, was accused of lying in the first meeting, and was ordered to write a memorandum disclosing everything that he/she had told the Senator's staff.

Sen. Grassley's counsel expressed concern that this may be a direct violation of the Whistleblower statute (retaliation) and that this could be perceived as an attempt to obstruct a congressional investigation. Sen. Grassley's counsel indicated that the Senator was having a private lunch with the Attorney General today and this would be the first topic on his agenda when they meet.

**ATF**

Acting Chief of Staff

Office of the Director

O: 202-648-**ATF**

C: **ATF**

HQ Room 5 S 100