From:

Weich, Ron (SMO)

To: Sent: Burton, Faith (SMO) 5/2/2011 12:39:26 PM

Subject:

RE: Draft response to Senator Grassley

Thx.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)

**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 11:25 AM

**To:** Weich, Ron (SMO)

Subject: RE: Draft response to Senator Grassley

Ron, talked with Matt and the sentence re Leahy has been removed; he said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence below pertains to F & F, and we haven't checked all other ATF operations.

I've just spoken with Matt Virkstis - to let him know that this letter is coming. Will bring it around to you now. FB

From: Weich, Ron (SMO)

**Sent:** Sunday, May 01, 2011 11:03 AM **To:** Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO) **Subject:** RE: Draft response to Senator Grassley

I would take out the sentence: "We have received no further requests from Chairman Leahy." You're right that sentence could increase pressure on Leahy.

One other question: Is the following sentence based on the distinction between Fast and Furious and other ATF operations?:

"It remains our understanding that ATF's Operation Fast and Furious did not knowingly permit straw buyers to take guns into Mexico."

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)

**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2011 11:26 AM **To:** Weich, Ron (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO) **Subject:** RE: Draft response to Senator Grassley

Yes, but we've decided to break up the long para at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> page as indicated here. Mico Q re last sentence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> para – don't want to increase pressure on Leahy to join with Grassley – do you think that sentence is OK? Thanks. FB

From: Weich, Ron (SMO)

**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 7:36 PM

**To:** Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO) **Subject:** FW: Draft response to Senator Grassley

I assume you've seen this on some other chain. This looks good to me.

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:33 PM

To: Wilkinson, Monty (OAG); Richardson, Margaret (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO)

Subject: Fw: Draft response to Senator Grassley

Fyi.

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 07:27 PM

To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover,

William J. (ATF); Sarnacki, Jeffrey P. (ATF); ATF (ATF)

Subject: Draft response to Senator Grassley

Attached is a revised draft response to Senator Grassley, as well as his incoming letter. Please vet for complete accuracy and let me know whether you have any changes. In particular, I want to make sure that we are on 100% solid ground saying that "It remains our understanding that ATF's Operation Fast and Furious did not knowingly permit straw buyers to take guns into Mexico." We're planning to get the letter out Monday morning, so I need to hear from you before then. Thanks.

## Matt

<<grassley ranking member response 5-2.docx>>

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087