
From: Schultz, Eric
To: Schmaler, Tracy (SMO)
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6/21/11: Rep. Issa “He Should [Resign]... He Was Part Of The Bad Judgment.” “Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) on Tuesday called on the acting director of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Kenneth Melson, to resign for the role he played in overseeing a controversial gun-tracking program. Issa said he plans to continue his investigation into the ‘Fast and Furious’ operation even if Melson steps down, because officials with the Justice Department need to be held accountable for their roles. He should [resign],’ said Issa of Melson in an interview with Fox News on Tuesday. ‘He was part of the bad judgment. And when I say bad judgment, it wasn’t just him. They had to go to Justice to get money, to get FBI agents, all of the other people that helped coordinate this, and to get the wiretaps they used. This was a program so stupid from the start.’ ‘With Melson leaving the top of the ATF, he’s being held accountable, but nobody’s being held accountable at the U.S. Attorney’s office or at Justice. That has to change.” [The Hill, 6/21/11, <http://thehill.com/homenews/news/167541-issa-calls-on-atf-director-melson-to-resign>]

6/21/11: Sen. Grassley: “It Would Be A Shame If The Justice Department Makes Mr. Melson The Only Fall Guy For This Disastrous Strategy... A Resignation By The Acting Director Would Be, By No Means, The End Of Our Inquiry.” “Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement Monday that Melson’s departure would not clear up his committee’s questions. ‘It would be a shame if the Justice Department makes Mr. Melson the only fall guy for this disastrous strategy -- there’s plenty of blame to go around at both the ATF and the Justice Department,’ Grassley said in a statement. ‘A resignation by the acting director would be, by no means, the end of our inquiry. Congressman Issa and I are eager to talk to Mr. Melson and hear his side of the story as soon as possible.’” [Los Angeles Times, 6/21/11]