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November 7, 2011

Cynthia A. Schnedar  
Acting Inspector General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

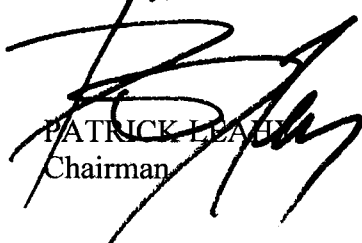
Dear Acting Inspector General Schnedar:

On April 18, the Department of Justice informed me that your office is investigating allegations that have been raised about the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Operation Fast and Furious. I understand that your office initiated this review at the request of Attorney General Holder on February 28 and that it is ongoing.

Recent documents provided by the Department of Justice to Congress show that the ATF utilized similar investigative techniques years earlier. For instance, in connection with Operation Wide Receiver in 2006, hundreds of weapons apparently moved beyond the custody and control of the ATF and possibly into Mexico and Arizona. Recent documents also show that Attorney General Mukasey may have been briefed in 2007 on the ATF's operations on the southern border, including an indication that guns may have entered Mexico out of the control of law enforcement officials.

I am writing to ask whether your office's investigation includes a review of the tactics developed and used earlier in these prior ATF operations. I appreciate your efforts to conduct a thorough investigation in a manner that does not hamper the efforts of law enforcement agents to fight against violent drug cartels in Mexico. I hope that your investigation can also be concluded as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
Chairman