



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

As you know, the Department has been working with the Committee to provide documents responsive to its March 16 request to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Yesterday, we informed Committee staff that we intended to produce a number of responsive documents within the next week. As we explained, there are some documents that we would be unable to provide without compromising the Department's ongoing criminal investigation into the death of Agent Brian Terry as well as other investigations and prosecutions, but we would seek to work productively with the Committee to find other ways to be responsive to its needs.

We were therefore surprised and disappointed when shortly after we notified your staff of our intent to work with the Committee, you nevertheless issued a subpoena a few hours later. Despite this unnecessary step on your part, we will review the subpoena and work with the Committee to address your concerns.

As the Attorney General has said, it is an important mission of the Department of Justice to stop the flow of guns into Mexico. He has asked the Department's Inspector General to investigate this matter and has also reiterated to Department personnel that they are not to knowingly allow any guns to be illegally transported into Mexico. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald Weich".

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Minority Member