

**FRANK R. WOLF**  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 5111  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

Per our conversation during our recent meeting, I wanted to share with you a copy of a newly released *Northern Virginia Comprehensive Gang Assessment: 2003-2008*. The assessment indicates that violent gang crimes are down 17 percent in northern Virginia over the past five years due to our multi-jurisdictional enforcement and prevention model.

For too long, many state and federal leaders have failed to grasp the magnitude or the consequences of this growth in violent gang activity throughout the U.S. Now, with growing cooperation between transnational gangs in the U.S. and Central America and the dangerous Mexican cartels, I believe we are on the cusp of a much greater crisis.

The administration and the Department of Justice must make violent gang enforcement a top national priority. As you will recall, I mentioned that a concerted national effort broke the back of organized crime in this country 40 years ago. I believe that a similar campaign is now needed to neutralize the large national and regional gang networks that are responsible for so much of the violence that is plaguing our communities.

The northern Virginia region, through the work of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, has been at the forefront of developing successful anti-gang programs and strategies. Notably, the assessment found that strong political leadership and collaboration among federal, state and local entities were important contributing factors to northern Virginia's success thus far in fighting gangs.

I hope the enclosed assessment will help the department to create a blueprint for reproducing successful anti-gang programs on a nationwide basis.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress