



One Hundred Twelfth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2011

Director John Morton  
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Director Morton:

The purpose of this letter is to request information concerning the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) role in Project Gunrunner's Operation Fast and Furious. Former Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Agent William Newell, in his testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on July 26, 2011, stated Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel were aware of the operation. Secretary Napolitano, during an October 26, 2011, Judiciary Committee hearing stated she was aware of two incidents where ICE agents ceased investigating [gunning running operations] at the request of ATF.

The Subcommittee requests answers to the following questions:

- To what extent were ICE personnel involved in the planning of the operation?
- What protocols were in place to brief management?
- What instructions were given to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) management by ICE regarding the operation and the crossings at the border?
- Explain what interaction took place between ICE and CBP based on the information provided by the ICE Agent assigned to the operation.
- Were there any ICE personnel aware of the mission who failed to properly brief US personnel controlling Southwest Border crossings?
- Who was responsible for the lack of communication to DHS authorities, who were told to "stand down," after encountering weapons in the possession of drug cartel members?

Please provide any information you may have, including briefing documents and emails composed by ICE, CBP or other DHS personnel on Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious no later than Friday, December 23, 2011. If you have any questions please contact Dr. R. Nicholas Palarino, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Management at (202) 226-8417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael McCaul".

Chairman Michael McCaul  
House Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Oversight Investigations, and Management