

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FISCAL YEAR 2007

JUNE 22, 2006.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
 the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WOLF, from the Committee on Appropriations,
 submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 5672]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in
 explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for
 Science, the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce, and re-
 lated agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

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BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The recommendation includes a total of \$980,128,000 for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which is \$48,311,000 above the enacted level including supplements and equal to the budget request. The recommendation includes authority to collect \$30,000,000 in explosives fees instead of \$120,000,000 as proposed in the budget request.

In addition to funding inflationary and other base adjustments, the recommendation includes a \$16,000,000 increase to establish additional Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCITs). The Committee appreciates ATF's work to combat gang violence and expects ATF to continue these efforts.

The Committee directs the ATF to submit a financial plan outlining the allocation of funding provided in this Act in accordance with the procedures outlined in section 605 of this Act. The financial plan shall describe the level of funding proposed to be used for the new ATF Headquarters building. In addition, the Committee directs that the financial plan provide sufficient funding for the effective operation of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network.

The Committee has heard reports that ATF has pursued license revocations and denials against firearms dealers based on violations that consist largely of recordkeeping errors of various types that are unlikely to impede tracing investigations or prosecution of individuals who use firearms in crime. The Committee encourages ATF to focus its efforts on cases where licensees commit serious, material violations of known legal duties. The Committee urges ATF to examine its regulations, forms and recordkeeping requirements to prevent inadvertent violations by licensees.

The Committee understands that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is planning a review of ATF's administration of the National Firearms Act and its management of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. The Committee supports the OIG's plans to conduct this review.

The Committee has heard concerns that ATF regulations on firearm possession by nonimmigrant aliens, combined with policies of other Federal agencies, creates unnecessary hardship for legitimate foreign sport shooters and hunters who wish to travel through the United States on the way to other destinations. The Committee expects ATF to work with other relevant agencies to devise a regulatory solution to this problem, consistent with legitimate security and border enforcement concerns.

The Committee understands that during a disaster, ATF agents do not have authority to temporarily or permanently seize firearms in the possession of a person who is not prohibited under Federal or State law from possessing a firearm. The Committee expects ATF to continue to act only within existing authorities.

The Committee recommends bill language similar to previous years and the budget request, that: (1) prohibits funding for consolidating or centralizing certain records; (2) prohibits funding to amend the definition of "Curios or relics"; (3) prohibits funding for investigating or acting upon applications for relief from Federal

