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ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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June 25, 1997

The Honorable Valerie Lau
Inspector General
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Main Treasury, Building, Room 2412
Washington, D.C. 20220

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Lau:

I would like to request your assistance in reviewing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' (ATF) registration and record-keeping of our nation's firearms, as required by the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934, as amended.

Recently, it was brought to my attention by Mr Eric Larson, a researcher and expert on firearms and gun laws, that there may be instances of mismanagement, misconduct, and improper record-keeping and registration of the Federal gun control laws by ATF employees. According to Mr. Eric Larson, there have been, and continue to be, a number of violations of law by ATF employees that include (1) the destruction of firearm registration documents; (2) the unlawful registration of firearms; (3) perjury in making legal determinations of firearms classifications; (4) registration of firearms known by ATF to be registered to persons who have been deceased for many years; and (5) the possible coverup of violations of the law by making false entries in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR). For your perusal, I have enclosed Mr. Larson's testimony before the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, and copy of a letter previously sent to the OIG.

From the correspondence and testimony I received from Mr. Larson, it appears that the concerns raised by Mr. Larson may be valid and legitimate. Consequently, I believe an investigation by the OIG into the above allegations would be appropriate to reveal any possible improprieties or mismanagement at the ATF, and to recommend solutions that would improve and strengthen ATF's registration and record-keeping of firearms. Due to the obvious conflict of interest, I believe it would be inappropriate for this matter to be referred to the ATF.

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