

ATTACHMENT

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT  
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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.

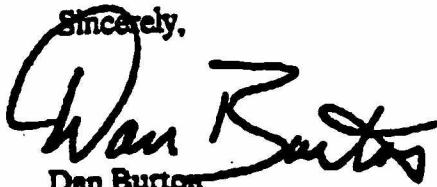
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I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Carolyn Hicks of my staff at 22504068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Burton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dan Burton  
Chairman

Enclosure

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1997

INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Dan Burton  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burton:

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 1997, which expressed your concern that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) may have had instances where firearm registration and recordkeeping practices were mismanaged. As stated in the enclosed correspondence from Mr. Eric Larson, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) referred these issues to ATF on June 5, 1997. The Office of Inspection, which is an independent investigative organization within ATF, was assigned to review the allegations, and will provide us with their report.

In response to your request, the OIG plans to begin an audit of ATF's firearm registration and recordkeeping practices. Our audit will include the OIG's assessment of ATF's response to Mr. Larson's allegations. Upon completion of our work, we will provide you with a copy of our final audit report.

If you would like to discuss this issue further or need any other information, you may contact me at (202) 622-1090 or a member of your staff may contact Ken Clarke, Director of Audit Planning and Analysis, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Valerie Lau in cursive script.

Valerie Lau  
Inspector General

Enclosure

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