



DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, DC 20226

NOV 19 1999

Mr. Eric M. Larson
P.O. Box 5497
Takoma Park, Maryland 20913

Dear Mr. Larson:

This is in response to your letter of August 22, 1999, regarding your allegation that members of my staff have misled the President and me regarding your contentions about the accuracy of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR) and your proposal for another amnesty period.

Your allegations concerning my staff are totally without foundation. I have been advised of all your allegations concerning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' (ATF) administration of the National Firearms Act (NFA), beginning with your attempts in 1987 to have certain firearms removed from the statute up through the recent issuance of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reports. I have reviewed the OIG reports and agree with my staff that most of your allegations are without merit.

We do not support your proposal for another amnesty period. As you know, the only amnesty period authorized to date occurred November 2 through December 1, 1968. The reason for granting amnesty at that time was to overcome the adverse effect of a Supreme Court decision which held that, prior to the 1968 amendments, provisions of the NFA were invalid under the self-incrimination clause of the Fifth Amendment. As you know, the Secretary of the Treasury has authority to establish amnesty periods if such periods would contribute to the purposes of the NFA.

