

Eric M. Larson

From: "Melson, Kenneth E." <Ken.Melson@usdoj.gov>
To: <larsone@starpower.net>
Cc: "Rubenstein, Steve R." <Stephen.R.Rubenstein@usdoj.gov>; "Herbert, Arthur W." <Arthur.W.Herbert@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 10:02 AM
Subject: Re: Letter to ATF Deputy Director Kenneth Melson re: NFRTR
 Thank you for your email. I will make sure we look into this. Ken Melson

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From: Eric M. Larson
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Tue Jun 08 22:52:54 2010
Subject: Letter to ATF Deputy Director Kenneth Melson re: NFRTR

June 8, 2010

Kenneth Melson
 Deputy Director
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
 and Explosives
 99 New York Avenue, N.E.
 Washington, D.C. 20226

Via e-mail; hard copy via U.S. Postal Service

Dear Deputy Director Melson:

In 2009, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) began releasing documents which disclose that there are no records of hundreds of registrations or transfers of firearms in ATF's version of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR). Because no firearm regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA) can be registered or transferred unless ATF approves the application in duplicate original (one copy for the registrant or transferee, the other for ATF), these missing records indicate the NFRTR is inaccurate and incomplete, and therefore not reliable.

An example of such missing records, included under FOIA release 08-726, is on the Internet at <http://www.nfaoa.org/documents/FOIA2010NFRTR.pdf>. In 1979, the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice advised the Congress that even one such missing record would require establishing a new amnesty period (see <http://www.nfaoa.org/documents/DOJAmnestyMemo1979.pdf>, page 4). Inspection of the FOIA records released so far indicate more than 800 instances of an NFA firearm or device in a licensee's inventory, for which the licensee had his copy of an ATF-approved Form 2 or Form 3 (or other document issued by ATF), and for which there was no corresponding record in the NFRTR.

