

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

March 23, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Acting Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Culberson and Carter and Ranking Members Honda and Roybal-Allard:

As you begin work on your respective fiscal year 2017 (FY) appropriations bills, we urge you to include language that would prohibit federal agencies from requiring anyone who is licensed to import, manufacture, or deal firearms to report the sale of multiple firearms to the same person.

The Southwest Border Initiative is an effort by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Customs Service, and U.S. Attorneys Offices aimed at stopping international trafficking in drugs and guns along America's southwest border. This collaborative effort is intended to reduce crime and stop the flow of illegal drugs into America.

However, Project Gunrunner: the Southwest Border Initiative, a program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), is actually an overreach and hindrance to lawful gun owners. In a publication by BATFE, citizens are given "key indicators" to tip them

off about potential trafficking activity. The problem with this approach is that it encourages citizens to be unnecessarily suspicious of normal gun purchasing activity. For instance, one of the indicators that BATFE associates with trafficking is the purchase of semiautomatic pistols (9mm and .45) that are completely lawful and that are owned by millions of Americans.

Other “key indicators” that are an overreach by BATFE are encouraging suspicion when purchasers don’t “haggle or question the price of a firearm,” “lack the physical stature to handle the firearm being purchased,” or “pay in cash with the same denomination.” These admonitions raise alarms about completely legitimate behavior by law-abiding gun purchasers and could result in unnecessary persecution and an infringement on the Second Amendment.

Accordingly, we ask that you retain the following language:

SEC. 537. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a person licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to report information to the Department of Justice regarding the sale of multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn blue triangle.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress