

JOE WALSH

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October 26, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,

The U.S. Department of Justice is tasked with enforcing the law and protecting American citizens from threats both foreign and domestic. The Department under your leadership, however, rejected this responsibility when it carried out Operation Fast and Furious – and this has raised serious doubts about your ability to uphold and defend the law.

Your Department has made an enormous error in judgment. It instructed federally-licensed firearms dealers to illegally sell at least 2,000 guns that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) intended to be trafficked to drug cartels in Mexico. The results of this error in judgment have implicated the United States in well over one hundred deadly crimes and the deaths of two federal agents.

This not only raises serious questions about your ability to serve as the head of the Justice Department, but also begs the question of why an anti-gun Administration would knowingly force licensed firearms dealers to sell guns to violent criminals. I raise this because Operation Fast and Furious – if the facts of this case had not come to light – would have been used by this Administration as another false argument to attack law-abiding American gun owners.

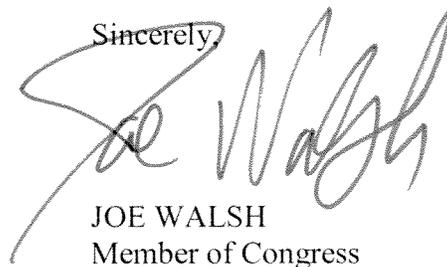
The American people deserve to know if your Department had any intent to link the legal purchase of firearms here in the U.S. to crimes committed near our southern border. Operation Fast and Furious funneled firearms legally purchased at gun shops in the U.S. to known criminal syndicates to prove these syndicates have access to legally purchased weapons. This is a deliberate attempt to vilify and attack the millions of gun owners in America who value our Second Amendment and who have never broken the law.

Your unwillingness to cooperate with the ongoing House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform investigation suggests there are facts you prefer Americans not to know. You have insisted you were not aware of the Fast and Furious operation until just a “few weeks” prior to your appearance before the Committee on May 3, 2011, and in your latest attempt to deny responsibility, you have claimed that you were not informed of the operation by your staff

because the memos were not directly addressed to you. Yet, based on documents released by the investigation just this month, you received no less than seven memos detailing the creation, operation, and authorization of the Fast and Furious program starting in July of 2010.

I ask that you take responsibility for implicating the United States as an accessory to the violent crimes committed by these Mexican cartels, using your appointed position as the chief law enforcement officer to attack the Second Amendment of the Constitution, and for the role you played in the subsequent cover-up of the failed Fast and Furious operation. I ask that you resign immediately and issue an apology to the American people you have failed to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

JOE WALSH
Member of Congress