Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We call on you today to hold Attorney General Eric Holder accountable for Operation Fast and Furious – and urge you to ask for his immediate resignation.

In intentionally letting over 2,000 firearms "walk" across the border into Mexico, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) – under the leadership of Attorney General Holder – carried out an operation that left a U.S. Border Patrol agent dead, broke federal law, and attempted to build a case for gun control. Operation Fast and Furious has proved to be one of the most serious errors in judgment carried out in recent history by a federal agency.

Now, the Attorney General has attempted to cover his own tracks and has been unwilling to cooperate in the ongoing Congressional investigation. In the recent hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Holder even admitted to misstating when he first learned of the operation.

In his May 3rd testimony, Mr. Holder said he first heard of the operation in the "last few weeks" but in his recent testimony said this was "misstated" and heard a "couple months" earlier (around March). Attorney General Holder is either trying to cover-up when he knew of this disastrous operation or is too incompetent to serve as the chief law enforcement officer of the United States.

No matter what the case is, he must be held responsible for knowing and overseeing a Department that executed Operation Fast and Furious. Mr. President, last month you expressed your disapproval that "somebody showed such bad judgment that they would allow something like that to happen" – and vowed to "find out who and what happened in this situation." We ask you to fulfill this promise to the American people because, like you, they are upset and deserve answers. They also deserve accountability from their federal officials, especially those who are unelected like Mr. Holder.

The Attorney General is supposed to uphold federal laws and not intentionally break them. He should never attempt to cover-up an investigation intended to ensure a mistake of this scale never occurs again. It is time Attorney General Holder takes responsibility for Operation Fast and Furious and step down immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Walsh (IL-8)

Rep. Paul Broun (GA-10)

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