

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 22, 2012

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

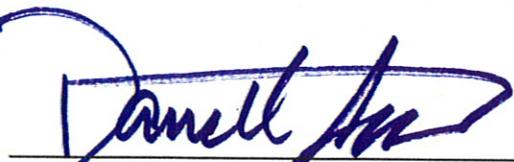
The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

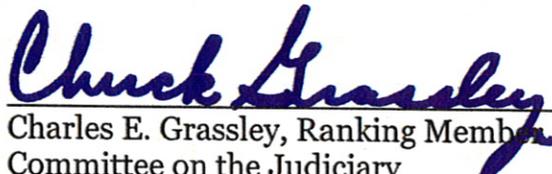
In our letter to you three days ago, we requested a briefing on why Manuel Celis-Acosta, the central target of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF) Operation Fast and Furious, was not arrested after being stopped during a May 29, 2010, border crossing. We have now learned that two months earlier, on April 2, 2010, law enforcement officials recovered a firearm in the possession of Celis-Acosta. ATF documented this firearm recovery in Report of Investigation (ROI) #242.<sup>1</sup> The firearm, a Colt .38 caliber pistol, was one of seven firearms purchased by Uriel Patino on March 26, 2010, and was entered into ATF's Suspect Gun Database on March 30, 2010.<sup>2</sup> By that date, Patino had purchased at least 434 weapons from cooperating gun dealers, many with contemporaneous notice to ATF. He eventually purchased a total of 720 weapons—more than any other straw buyer in Fast and Furious.<sup>3</sup>

Please provide the appropriate senior Justice Department officials to brief the Committees as to the circumstances of the April 2, 2010, firearm recovery and why Celis-Acosta was not arrested on that date. This briefing should be conducted at the same time as the briefing we requested in our March 19, 2012, letter. Additionally, please provide a detailed written explanation of why the Department has (1) failed to produce ROI #242 pursuant to category eight of the October 12, 2011, subpoena issued to you, and (2) failed to provide notice that the Department is withholding this document pursuant to a valid legal privilege. To schedule this briefing, please contact Tristan Leavitt of Ranking Member Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 and Henry Kerner of Chairman Issa's staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives



Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate

<sup>1</sup> Overt Acts Document, Operation Fast and Furious (Jun. 8, 2010), at 32 [Attachment 1].

<sup>2</sup> Suspect Gun Summary, Uriel Patino, March 26, 2010 [Attachment 2].

<sup>3</sup> ATF intelligence chart, purchases by indicted targets in Operation Fast and Furious (Jun. 14, 2011) [HOCR ATF 001479] [Attachment 3].