

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 14, 2024

The Honorable Steven Dettelbach
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Director Dettelbach:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating potential collaboration between the Biden Administration and anti-Second Amendment plaintiffs (including the City of Chicago) on pending litigation. These plaintiffs are seeking to financially punish and restrict continued operation of a firearm manufacturer for illegal, aftermarket alterations being made by criminals to their product after they have been lawfully sold.¹ This misguided action ignores the responsibility of Federal law enforcement agencies to aggressively prosecute criminals who violate Federal statutes and local prosecutors who have taken a soft on crime approach to prosecutions. The Committee seeks certain information, documents, and communications from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to assist its investigation of this matter.

The City of Chicago recently filed suit, in cooperation with Everytown Law, a pro-gun control organization, claiming Glock, Inc. has willfully sold pistols that can be converted into fully automatic weapons and is seeking financial damages as well as other punitive remedies. The suit claims Glock has turned a blind eye to the illegal alterations criminals make to many models of their pistol in violation of the National Firearms Act of 1934 (the NFA) and abetted these criminals by continuing to produce their pistols as is.² By this logic, the government could accuse nearly any manufacturer of liability for illegal alteration or misuse of their products.

Glock is one of the largest providers of firearms to the civilian and law enforcement communities in America. The Committee has learned that agents within your own agency as well as the Chicago Police Department (and an estimated 65 percent of law enforcement agencies across the country) carry Glocks as their primary sidearm.³ One of the reasons Glocks are appealing to law enforcement is their design, which has garnered a reputation as one of the

¹ *City of Chicago v. Glock, Inc.*, No. 1:2024cv03088 (N.D. Ill. filed Apr. 17, 2024).

² National Firearms Act of 1934, Pub. L. No. 73-474 (as amended), 26 U.S.C. § 5801-5872.

³ Peter Suci, *SIG Sauer vs. Glock: Which Gun Maker Do Police Prefer?*, 19FortyFive.com (Apr. 24, 2021).

most reliable handguns available. The simple yet reliable design of Glock handguns is what has led to its massive appeal to both law enforcement and civilians who desire reliability when faced with the high level of crime plaguing America. And rather than aggressively prosecuting criminals, government agencies are colluding with anti-gun interest groups to cripple a manufacturer who sells a legal product in a highly regulated sales market.

The suit focuses on the availability and use by criminals of “auto sears”, a part manufactured by third parties and designed to circumvent the safety design of the pistol which, as sold by Glock, is semi-automatic, meaning one and only one round will be fired with each pull of the trigger. The use of auto sears disables the design of the guns’ design, allowing continuous fire with each trigger pull, a clear and undisputed violation of the NFA. As the head of ATF, you are the chief law enforcement officer responsible for enforcing the NFA.

To assist the Committee with its investigation, please provide the following information, documents, and communications, covering the time period January 20, 2021 unless otherwise indicated, no later than June 28, 2024.

1. The number of firearms manufactured by Glock that have been approved for importation and sale to the civilian market that meet the definition of a machine gun under the NFA;
2. The number of firearms for which Glock has submitted a Form 6 which the ATF found to meet the criteria of being a machine gun;
3. The number of prosecutions under the NFA of the illegal possession and/or use of Glock or other firearms equipped with auto sears;
4. The number of prosecutions under the NFA against manufacturers or importers of auto sears;
5. All documents and communications between or among the ATF, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, Everytown for Gun Safety, Everytown Law, any State Attorneys General,⁴ officials of the City of Chicago, Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago, City of Chicago Department of Law, Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, which include the terms “Glock”, “auto sear(s)”, “Glock switches”, “machinegun conversion device” (“MCD”) or “Chicago litigation.”

⁴ This includes, but is not limited to, Attorneys General from: NJ, CO, CT, DE, DC, MA, MI, MN, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA and HI. *See* Letter from Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey, et. al, to Mr. Carlos Guevara, General Counsel, Glock, Inc. (Mar. 26, 2024).

Director Dettelbach

June 14, 2024

Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at 202-225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate, “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "C".

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability