

PATRICK MEEHAN  
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY,  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND  
SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3807

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TARP AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY,  
INFORMATION POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT REFORM  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

October 18, 2011

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

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to appear before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to answer important questions on the "Fast and the Furious" operation. As a former U.S. Attorney from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, I believe your testimony can provide critical insight into this matter and help ensure that this never happens again.

Unfortunately, the public – and the Committee – has more questions than answers about this ill-fated anti-gun-trafficking program. When senior officers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives appeared before the Committee in July, they were asked repeatedly how this operation was instigated and who along the chain of command approved it. No serious answers were forthcoming, and that is unacceptable. If it is true, as some believe, that this controversial program was conducted by local agents without the knowledge of senior Justice Department officials, then surely we need to know how such an ill-conceived and wide-ranging operation was allowed in the first place. And for that, we need your insight.

I agree with the Committee's ranking member Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), who said on CBS's "Face the Nation" program Sunday that Democrats "want a responsible and balanced investigation because we are the Oversight and Government Reform committee ... You cannot reform anything unless you have all the information ... You look at the entire picture. That simply has not happened yet."

While the Committee has done important work on this issue, I believe only through your testimony can we conclude a "responsible and balanced investigation" that collects "all the information" that Ranking Member Cummings seeks.

As a former U.S. Attorney, I urge you to appear because in this serious and tragic case, we do owe it to the American people to conduct a thorough investigation and conduct responsible, proper oversight – not engage in a partisan witch hunt. Our shared goal is to uncover the truth and identify the right lessons-learned so this never happens again – not in scoring political points.

Sincerely,

Pat Meehan  
Member of Congress