



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

July 5, 2012

Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2347 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Grassley:

This letter responds to your correspondence dated June 29, 2012, regarding the apparent decision by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to place two whistleblowers who testified before Congress about the Fast and Furious matter under the supervision of an individual who allegedly threatened to retaliate against them.

This Office takes seriously any situation where a whistleblower may face possible retaliation, and it is important that the Department ensure that whistleblowers do not suffer retaliation. We have carefully reviewed the materials you provided, and we have initiated an investigation into this matter. Once we complete the investigation, we will be in a better position to respond to your specific inquiries.

Thank you for bringing this important matter to our attention. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Senior Counsel Jay Lerner at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Horowitz", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives

James E. Cole  
Deputy Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice

B. Todd Jones  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives