

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 2012

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 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 Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in response to your letter dated March 28, 2012 seeking further information from a former member of the National Security Staff (NSS), Kevin O'Reilly, as it relates to "Operation Fast and Furious," a criminal investigation led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Over six months ago, the White House produced documents responsive to your prior request for communications between Mr. O'Reilly and ATF agent William Newell that relate to "Operation Fast and Furious" or any ATF gun trafficking cases in Phoenix, AZ. At the time we produced these documents, you had already received many of those same documents from the Department of Justice. And what was true then remains true today: none of these limited communications between Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Newell revealed the existence of any of the inappropriate investigative tactics at issue in your inquiry, let alone any decision to allow guns to "walk."

In light of the important Executive Branch confidentiality interests and institutional prerogatives implicated by your request, including those of NSS, and in the absence of any evidence that suggests that Mr. O'Reilly had any involvement in "Operation Fast

and Furious” or was aware of the existence of any inappropriate investigative tactics, there is an insufficient basis to support the request to interview Mr. O’Reilly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Ruemmler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kathryn Ruemmler
Counsel to the President

Cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary