



December 10, 2010

Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-7327

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-2499

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As mayors of over 550 cities from throughout the country, we are deeply concerned about the threat that illegal gun trafficking poses to the safety of our communities. It is out of this concern that we write to urge the United States Senate to quickly consider the nomination of Andrew Traver as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

As you know, the ATF is the federal agency that is primarily responsible for combating illegal gun trafficking. Unfortunately, this critical public safety agency has been without a permanent director for over four years. During that time, thousands of Americans have been murdered with guns because criminals, terror suspects, and those with serious mental illness have been able to take advantage of insufficient enforcement of existing federal gun laws. The lack of permanent leadership has prevented the ATF from taking more effective proactive steps to improve enforcement against illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to criminals.

The need for leadership at the ATF has never been more urgent. Recent analyses of 2009 ATF crime gun trace data published by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that states with the weakest guns laws export guns involved in interstate crimes at the highest rates—and states along the U.S. border are major suppliers of guns that are fueling drug cartel violence along our border with Mexico. Just last week, a *Washington Post* investigation revealed that 511 police officers in the United States have been killed with guns over the past decade. The *Post* was able to trace the source of the guns used in only 341 of the 511 killings – and more than half of these guns were obtained through illegal channels. These statistics are just one more reminder of the glaring gaps in our nation's gun background check system that make it easy for criminals to obtain guns without detection.

Andrew Traver has dedicated his career to protecting the safety of the American public from the dangers of gun violence. Mr. Traver knows first hand the challenges and the resources that ATF agents need to cut off the supply of guns to criminals. Since 2004, Mr. Traver has served as Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Chicago Field office, where he led efforts to crack down on illegal gun traffickers. Prior to becoming Special Agent in Charge, Mr. Traver worked in ATF field offices in numerous cities, including Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco and he served our country as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. Mr. Traver has the necessary experience and skills to lead the ATF and ensure that the agency is able to fulfill its mission.

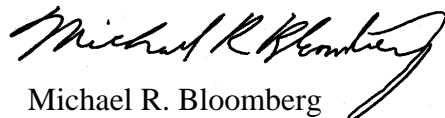
ATF needs a leader who will fight for the resources that the agency desperately needs to enforce existing laws and who will have the authority to spearhead innovative approaches for keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. Without strong leadership, ATF will continue to be hamstrung by inadequate resources and outside efforts to gut the agency's ability to conduct comprehensive, proactive illegal gun trafficking enforcement.

Given the magnitude of the threat posed by illegal guns and the growing problem of trafficking along the U.S.-Mexico border, we urge the Senate to conduct a careful and swift review of Mr. Traver's nomination. The American public cannot afford to wait any longer for leadership from the federal government in the fight to keep our communities safe from gun violence.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City

Mayor Samuel L. Jones, Mobile, Alabama
Mayor Ron Davis, Prichard, Alabama
Mayor Omar Neal, Tuskegee, Alabama
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Mayor Arnie Bowser, Greensboro, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Robert O'Neil, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania
Mayor Bruce Hockersmith, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert Prah, Smithton, Pennsylvania
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Mayor William Meyer, Somerset, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Ester Cotner, Washingtonville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Carolyn T. Comitta, West Chester, Pennsylvania
Mayor Donna M. Frankenfield, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ralph Harrington, West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dick Vargeson, Westfield, Pennsylvania
Mayor Frank Schmidt, West Hazleton, Pennsylvania
Mayor John W. Dindak, West Homestead, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mary E. Popovich, West Newton, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Henry, West View, Pennsylvania
Mayor James F. Nowalk, Whitehall, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas M. Leighton, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Mayor John A. Thompson, Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Perruso, Wilson, Pennsylvania
Mayor Larry Markel, Windsor, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dolores Jones-Butler, Yeadon, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Sanford, Yoe, Pennsylvania
Mayor C. Kim Bracey, York, Pennsylvania
Mayor Alford Shull, York Springs, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joan Derco, Youngwood, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Cicilline, Providence, Rhode Island
Mayor Joseph Riley, Charleston, South Carolina
Mayor Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Sumter, South Carolina
Mayor A C Wharton, Memphis, Tennessee
Mayor Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Mayor Richard Ward, Hurst, Texas
Mayor Bob Kiss, Burlington, Vermont
Mayor Christopher C. Louras, Rutland City, Vermont
Mayor William B. Euille, Alexandria, Virginia
Mayor Faye Prichard, Ashland, Virginia
Mayor Dave Norris, Charlottesville, Virginia
Mayor James P. Council III, Franklin, Virginia
Mayor Brenda Pelham, Hopewell, Virginia
Mayor Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk, Virginia
Mayor Annie M. Mickens, Petersburg, Virginia
Mayor Iris Tharp, Quantico, Virginia
Mayor Dwight C. Jones, Richmond, Virginia
Mayor William D. Sessoms Jr, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Mayor Peter B. Lewis, Auburn, Washington
Mayor H. Clarence Bauman, Chewelah, Washington
Mayor Garland D. Walton, Connell, Washington
Mayor Robert F. Sheckler, Des Moines, Washington
Mayor Tamara Jenkins, DuPont, Washington
Mayor Will Ibershof, Duvall, Washington
Mayor Gary S. Jensen, Ferndale, Washington
Mayor Ron (Pete) Poulson, Kalama, Washington
Mayor David M. Ferguson, Mesa, Washington
Mayor Daniel N. Mork, Millwood, Washington
Mayor James F. Gerwig, Morton, Washington
Mayor Russ Rickett, Oakesdale, Washington
Mayor Spencer Nichols, Pe Ell, Washington
Mayor Paul Warden, Prosser, Washington
Mayor Terry Anderson, SeaTac, Washington
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle, Washington
Mayor Charlotte L. Mackner, Skykomish, Washington
Mayor Mary B. Verner, Spokane, Washington

Mayor Dianne W. White, Stanwood, Washington
Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma, Washington
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mayor Richard Johns, Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Mayor Al Richards, Saint Francis, Wisconsin
Mayor Kristine M. Deiss, West Bend, Wisconsin

cc: Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Jeff Sessions, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee