

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2012

Mr. B. Todd Jones
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Acting Director Jones:

I write to express serious concern regarding the breakdown in relations between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Reno, Nevada Field Office (Reno ATF) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada (USAONV). Recent media reports have detailed the impact this breakdown has had on the prosecution of illegal weapon cases, drug changes, and other matters involved violent criminals, but neither Reno ATF nor the USAONV have clearly articulated either the source of this collapse in cooperation between two federal law enforcement agencies or described an acceptable path forward to address this situation.

The fact that crimes perpetrated in Nevada are not being prosecuted simply because of intergovernmental bickering is unacceptable. A number of Nevadans have already contacted me to express their thoughts on this troubling situation, and these taxpayers are owed answers concerning the Reno ATF and the USAONV.

I understand that Senate Judiciary Ranking Member Grassley has already contacted you regarding this matter and has given you until today to respond. Please provide me a copy of your answers to Senator Grassley's questions, as they reflect my own questions and those of many Nevadans following this situation. I stand ready to work with Senator Grassley and others concerned by this complete collapse of a proper relationship between two law enforcement agencies that are supposed to be working on behalf of the American people.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Leeann Gibson on my staff at 202-224-6244.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator