

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 16, 2007

Michael J. Sullivan  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
U.S. Department of Justice  
650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Sullivan:

We were happy to learn about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by New Jersey and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that will allow the New Jersey State Police to receive trace information on guns used in crimes through ATF's eTrace system.

As you know, crime gun trace information is a critical crime-fighting tool that can allow law enforcement to identify gun traffickers, gun dealers who supply guns to criminals, and which states are supplying crime guns. Particularly in New Jersey, where a large percentage of guns used in crimes come from out of state, this information is crucial to developing strategies to prevent violence. That is why we have fought to repeal the Tiahrt Amendments, which place unreasonable restrictions on what gun trace information the ATF can share with state and local law enforcement.

Although we hail the historic agreement between ATF and New Jersey, we are concerned that law enforcement in New Jersey may not have access to all the information it needs to fight crime most effectively. We call on ATF to provide the following information to New Jersey law enforcement agencies:

1. Local and county law enforcement agencies, and not just the state police, should be able to access eTrace information for other jurisdictions;
2. New Jersey law enforcement should be able to receive trace information regarding guns recovered outside of New Jersey; and
3. Agencies accessing eTrace information should be able to share that information with agencies in other jurisdictions within and outside of the State.

We look forward to receiving your response to these requests and to working with you to ensure that New Jersey has every possible instrument at its disposal to combat violent crime.

Sincerely,

  
