

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attorney General Holder:

On April 4th, you testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies that your Department was exploring “how guns can be made more safe” by using “fingerprint identification,” or having the gun talk “to a bracelet that you might wear.” Your testimony has raised serious concerns for my constituents given President Obama’s track-record of acting beyond the scope of his legal authority and your hostility to the individual right to self-defense under the Second Amendment. I would like to ask you a series of questions to shed further light on this testimony.

1. Is the Obama Administration currently exploring the possibility of an Executive Order requiring all firearms to possess the technological capabilities you referenced in your testimony?
2. Does the Executive Branch possess the statutory authority to take any executive action or agency action requiring firearms to possess the technological capabilities you referenced in your testimony? If so, under what provision of law does such authority exist?
3. Would the technological capabilities you referenced in your testimony require, or allow for, the monitoring of American citizens’ personally identifying information through a central database or registry?
4. How much, on a per firearms basis, would the technological capabilities you referenced in your testimony cost? Would it be appropriate to require law-abiding Americans to bear the cost of such technologies as a condition of exercising their fundamental constitutional rights under the Second Amendment?
5. Will you assure my constituents and me that, under your supervision, the Department of Justice will not issue regulations requiring law-abiding citizens to equip their firearms with fingerprint-reading technology, or to link them to biometric bracelets?

I thank you for your consideration and prompt response to these important questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator