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February 1, 2013

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Rigell
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
United States House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Meehan
United States House of Representatives
204 Cannon House Office building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings, Rep. Maloney, Rep. Meehan, Rep. Rigell:

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) is a private non-profit whose mission is to support and enhance the effectiveness of prosecutors in their efforts to create safer communities. We are the only national organization to include and support all prosecutors, including both appointed and elected prosecutors, as well as their deputies and assistants, whether they work as city attorneys, city prosecutors, district attorneys, state's attorneys, attorneys general or US attorneys

On behalf of APA, I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer our assistance in efforts underway in Congress to address the serious problem of firearms violence including trafficking of these weapons both interstate and internationally. Under current law, we could find no specific provision addressing the high volume of firearms being trafficked into Mexico and in addition the difficulties experienced by both law enforcement and prosecutors in enforcing the related regulations. Due to the lack of a dedicated federal statute prohibiting illegal gun trafficking, large numbers of guns are diverted from legitimate commerce into the criminal marketplace every year. As prosecutors, we are well aware of how specific legislation can help or hinder our ability to do our jobs. We agree with the proposed legislation prohibiting the purchasing, attempting to purchase, or transferring a firearm with the intent to deliver the firearm to another person who the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe is prohibited by federal or state law from possessing a firearm.

We are available to answer any questions the Committee may have, and we thank you for your attention to this real and pressing law enforcement concern that will address the high volume of firearms being trafficked to Mexico and the resulting killings, including U.S. law enforcement officers.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven A. Jansen
Vice-President and COO

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