

JOHN McCAIN  
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

September 7, 2011

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Senator Joseph Lieberman, Chairman  
Senator Susan Collins, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am writing to request the committee hold a hearing concerning the Southwest Border that is of great importance to the State of Arizona and the nation.

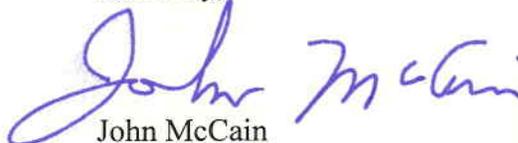
As you are aware, Operation Fast and Furious was created in order to identify Mexican drug cartel leaders and gun-smuggling operations and routes across the border. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) allowed straw purchasers to buy weapons in the U.S. and planned to track the guns to Mexico and drug cartel leaders. Unfortunately this program appears to have been ill conceived and poorly implemented. As a result many of the weapons vanished and turned up at crime scenes in Mexico and the U.S., including at the killing of U.S. Border Patrol agent Brian Terry in Arizona last December.

Last week additional information was released concerning Operation Fast & Furious that raises yet more questions over the decision making process behind the operation. The Committee must exercise its oversight authority to ensure further damage from this operation does not persist. I request the Committee hold a hearing as soon as possible to examine these new revelations and determine what additional measures are needed to help prevent this type of malfeasance from occurring again.

I believe the Committee should hear from the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Acting Director of the ATF. I hope you will schedule this hearing immediately and respectfully request that these witnesses be invited to testify.

Thank you for considering my requests and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senate