



Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We were surprised to learn earlier today that the Committee has scheduled a hearing to consider its draft contempt resolution arising out of the Fast and Furious investigation. As you know, over the past few weeks our staffs have met twice and had other communications in an effort to address the questions set forth in the May 18, 2012 letter from House Leadership and you to the Attorney General, and at the same time preserve the Department's legitimate interests. The conversations between our staffs have been productive and we believe that an amicable resolution of these matters is achievable. Because of this, the Committee's decision to set a hearing on its draft contempt resolution is premature.

In prior letters that the Department has sent you, I have offered to meet with you to discuss how we can reach a resolution of this matter. However, you have not responded to those offers. I continue to believe that such a meeting could be productive. I once more suggest that you and I meet to discuss these remaining issues. I am confident that the two of us, working in good faith, can bring this matter to a close.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Cole".

James M. Cole
Deputy Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Minority Member