

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2026

To: Members, Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing titled “Privacy Protections & the Second Amendment: Examining ATF’s Relationship to the Tiahrt Amendment”

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 10:00 AM ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement will host a hearing titled “Privacy Protections & the Second Amendment: Examining ATF’s Relationship to the Tiahrt Amendment.”

I. BACKGROUND:

Part of a 2003 appropriations bill, the Tiahrt Amendment precludes the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) from sharing firearms trace data (*i.e.*, the chain of ownership and sale beginning from the point of manufacture) to anyone other than prosecutors or law enforcement agencies in connection with a criminal investigation. Failure to abide by the Tiahrt Amendment exposes informants, undercover officers, and lawful federal firearms licensees whose safety would be endangered by the revelations. ATF nevertheless has a history of violating Tiahrt under presidential administrations of both parties.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will allow Members to examine ATF’s track record across presidential administrations of abiding by the Tiahrt Amendment and explore the consequences of the agency’s failure to do so. The hearing will also allow Members to discuss other pertinent Second Amendment issues.

III. WITNESSES:

The Honorable Robert Cekada

Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives