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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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MEMORANDUM

November 13, 2026

To: Members, Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing titled "Oversight of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Out-of-Business Records Retention Practices"

On **Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building,** the Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement will host a hearing titled "Oversight of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Out-of-Business Records Retention Practices."

I. BACKGROUND:

When a licensed federal firearms dealer closes without a business successor, federal law requires them to send their sales records to ATF. Those records are stored at the National Tracing Center in a records system containing over 1.4 billion pages of sales records. Federal law prohibits ATF from creating a national gun registry; however, the massive scope and accessibility of ATF's out-of-business records collection raise serious privacy concerns for law abiding gun owners.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine how ATF collects and uses out-of-business records and assess whether ATF's practices comply with the federal ban on creating a national gun registry.

III. WITNESSES:

Mr. Aidan Johnston
Director, Federal Affairs
Gun Owners of America

Mr. Wally Nelson
Deputy Assistant Director (retired)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives