

March 14, 2007

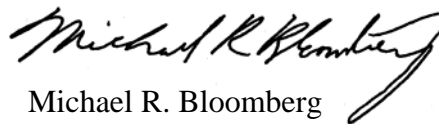
Re: Letter from Mayors Against Illegal Guns regarding the “Tiahrt Amendments”

We are enclosing a letter from the 158 members of the coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This letter reflects our collective opposition to the so-called “Tiahrt Amendments,” which are riders that have been attached to annual U.S. Department of Justice appropriations bills for the last four years. It is our view that the Tiahrt Amendments unnecessarily restrict how police and other city law enforcement authorities can access and use ATF gun trace data, thereby undermining efforts to combat illegal gun trafficking and putting public safety at risk.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City

An Open Letter to Congress:

Re: Ending Restrictions on Law Enforcement's Access to Gun Trace Data

We write to you as members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a coalition of more than 150 mayors from 43 states who are dedicated to making America's cities safer by cracking down on illegal guns. As mayors, our highest responsibility is to enforce the law and protect the people we serve – more than 49 million, in total. One of the most difficult challenges we face in meeting this responsibility is preventing criminals from illegally obtaining guns and preventing those who do get them from using them. The issue of illegal guns is not an issue of conservative or liberal ideology; it is an issue of law and order – and life or death. That is why our coalition includes Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

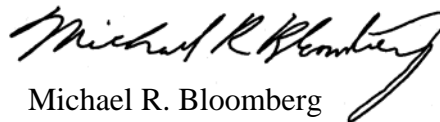
Together, we speak with one voice in opposition to the damaging measures collectively known as the “Tiahrt Amendments.” The Tiahrt Amendments are riders that have been attached to annual U.S. Department of Justice appropriations bills for the last four years – without a floor vote or full debate. These riders limit how police and other city law enforcement authorities can access and use ATF gun trace data, which is a vitally important tool in combating illegal gun trafficking. We oppose the Tiahrt Amendments as well as any effort to make permanent these restrictions on the use of gun trace data. Asking law enforcement to combat gun crime with these restrictions in place is asking them to fight crime with one hand behind their backs. As Mayors, our police and law enforcement officials have our full support – but they need yours, too.

Until Mayors began speaking out, the Tiahrt Amendments had garnered little attention. Now, that has changed. This year, we urge Members of Congress to join our bi-partisan coalition in opposing these harmful restrictions. By doing so, we will make our streets – and all of America – safer. Our constituents, and the police officers who put their lives on the line to protect them, deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City

Full membership of Mayors Against Illegal Guns endorsing the letter:

Samuel L. Jones, Mobile, Alabama
Dan Coody, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Patrick Hays, North Little Rock, Arkansas
Daniel E. Furtado, Campbell, California
Kris Wang, Cupertino, California
Robert Wasserman, Fremont, California
Beth Krom, Irvine, California
Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles, California
Ron Dellums, Oakland, California
Pamela Torliatt, Petaluma, California
Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton, California
Gayle McLaughlin, Richmond, California
Heather Fargo, Sacramento, California
Patrick J. Morris, San Bernardino, California
Jerry Sanders, San Diego, California
Gavin Newsom, San Francisco, California
Chuck Reed, San Jose, California
Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana, California
Marty Blum, Santa Barbara, California
Bob Blanchard, Santa Rosa, California
Otto O. Lee, Sunnyvale, California
Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento, California
John Hickenlooper, Denver, Colorado
John Fabrizi, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Eddie Perez, Hartford, Connecticut
John DeStefano, New Haven, Connecticut
Richard A. Moccia, Norwalk, Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy, Stamford, Connecticut
Scott Slifka, West Hartford, Connecticut
Adrian Fenty, Washington, DC
Vance A. Funk, III, Newark, Delaware
James M. Baker, Wilmington, Delaware
Scott J. Brook, Coral Springs, Florida
Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach, Florida
Julio Robaina, Hialeah, Florida
Mara Giuliani, Hollywood, Florida
Manuel Diaz, Miami, Florida
Kevin Burns, North Miami, Florida
Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines, Florida
Patricia Christensen, Port St Lucie, Florida
John Marks, III, Tallahassee, Florida
Beth Talabisco, Tamarac, Florida
Heidi Davison, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Shirley Franklin, Atlanta, Georgia
Jack Ellis, Macon, Georgia
Jere Wood, Roswell, Georgia
Mufi Hannemann, Honolulu, Hawaii
Richard Daley, Chicago, Illinois
Lorraine Morton, Evanston, Illinois
Rita Mullins, Palatine, Illinois
John A. Spring, Quincy, Illinois
Lawrence J. Morrissey, Rockford, Illinois
Richard H. Hyde, Waukegan, Illinois
James Brainard, Carmel, Indiana
Graham Richard, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Stephen Luecke, South Bend, Indiana
Kay Halloran, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Edwin Winborn, Davenport, Iowa
T.M. Franklin Cownie, Des Moines, Iowa
Elaine Walker, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Jerry Abramson, Louisville, Kentucky
Melvin "Kip" Holden, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Ray Nagin, New Orleans, Louisiana
Cedric B. Glover, Shreveport, Louisiana
Nicholas Mavodones, Jr., Portland, Maine
Ellen Moyer, Annapolis, Maryland
Sheila Dixon, Baltimore, Maryland
James E. Harrington, Brockton, Massachusetts
Kenneth E. Reeves, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Jim Fiorentini, Haverhill, Massachusetts
Michael J. Sullivan, Holyoke, Massachusetts
Clare Higgins, Northampton, Massachusetts
Joseph A. Curtatone, Somerville, Massachusetts
Charles V. Ryan, Springfield, Massachusetts
Kwame Kilpatrick, Detroit, Michigan
Gary F. Van Eyll, Chaska, Minnesota
Herb W. Bergson, Duluth, Minnesota
R.T. Rybak, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chris Coleman, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Johnny DuPree, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Frank Melton, Jackson, Mississippi
Phillip West, Natchez, Mississippi
Matthew J. Avara, Pascagoula, Mississippi
Francis Slay, St. Louis, Missouri
Ron Tussing, Billings, Montana
Colleen Seng, Lincoln, Nebraska
Mike Fahey, Omaha, Nebraska
Kevin G. Sanders, Asbury Park, New Jersey
Gwendolyn A. Faison, Camden, New Jersey
Robert L. Bowser, East Orange, New Jersey
J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth, New Jersey
Glen D. Gilmore, Hamilton, New Jersey
Meryl Frank, Highland Park, New Jersey
Wayne Smith, Irvington, New Jersey
Jerramiah Healy, Jersey City, New Jersey
Cory Booker, Newark, New Jersey
Jose Torres, Paterson, New Jersey
Douglas Palmer, Trenton, New Jersey
David Coss, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Gerald Jennings, Albany, New York
Byron Brown, Buffalo, New York
Ernest D. Davis, Mt. Vernon, New York
Noam Bramson, New Rochelle, New York
Robert Duffy, Rochester, New York
Matthew J. Driscoll, Syracuse, New York
Philip Amicone, Yonkers, New York
Geno Martini, Sparks, Nevada
Terry Bellamy, Asheville, North Carolina
Kevin Foy, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Bill Bell, Durham, North Carolina
Keith A. Holliday, Greensboro, North Carolina
Charles Meeker, Raleigh, North Carolina
Dennis Walaker, Fargo, North Dakota
Donald Plusquellic, Akron, Ohio
Frank Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio
Michael Coleman, Columbus, Ohio

Rhine McLin, Dayton, Ohio
Lydia J. Reid, Mansfield, Ohio
Thomas E. O'Grady, North Olmsted, Ohio
Jay Williams, Youngstown, Ohio
Kathy Taylor, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Rob Drake, Beaverton, Oregon
Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, Pennsylvania
John B. Callahan, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Joseph Sinnott, Erie, Pennsylvania
J. Richard Gray, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
John Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Luke Ravenstahl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Tom McMahon, Reading, Pennsylvania
John S. Brenner, York, Pennsylvania
David Cicilline, Providence, Rhode Island
Joseph Riley, Charleston, South Carolina
Dave Munson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
A C Wharton, Shelby County, Tennessee
Bill Haslam, Knoxville, Tennessee
Will Wynn, Austin, Texas

Laura Miller, Dallas, Texas
Bill White, Houston, Texas
Richard Ward, Hurst, Texas
Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bob Kiss, Burlington, Vermont
William B. Euille, Alexandria, Virginia
Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk, Virginia
Annie M. Mickens, Petersburg, Virginia
James W. Holley III, Portsmouth, Virginia
L. Douglas Wilder, Richmond, Virginia
Peter B. Lewis, Auburn, Washington
Greg Nickels, Seattle, Washington
Bill Baarsma, Tacoma, Washington
James J. Schmitt, Green Bay, Wisconsin
John M. Antaramian, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Dave Cieslewicz, Madison, Wisconsin
Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gary Becker, Racine, Wisconsin
Larry Nelson, Waukesha, Wisconsin
Theresa M. Estness, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin