

United States Senate

June 23, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Werfel
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20224

The Honorable Steven M. Dettelbach
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Commissioner Werfel and Director Dettelbach:

Earlier this month, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), with assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), executed a search warrant at the Highwood Creek Outfitters gun shop in Great Falls, Montana. I am reaching out regarding concerns that Montanans have shared with me that deserve answers.

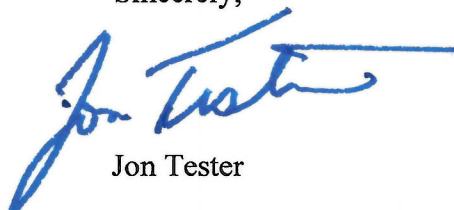
Our justice system is founded on the principle that everyone is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, which means there are limits on sharing information during an ongoing investigation. However, federal law enforcement agencies should aim to be as transparent as possible, while respecting the rights of those under investigation.

To that end, I urge your agencies to provide additional information related to the following:

1. There have been concerns raised about the lack of notice and information sharing with local law enforcement ahead of the search. What actions are your agencies taking to ensure that they are provided necessary information about this case and to improve communication moving forward?
2. Concerns have been raised about the records taken during the search, including forms that contain personally identifiable information of gun owners and purchasers unrelated to the investigation. What actions are your agencies taking to ensure that these documents are properly handled and that the privacy and Second Amendment rights of these individuals are protected?

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester