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United States Senate

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September 22, 2017

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 4706
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Inspector General:

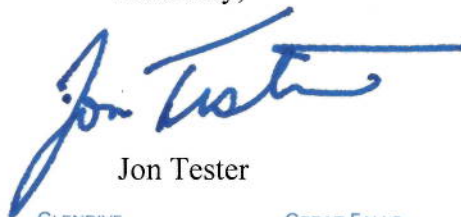
I write today to respectfully urge you to launch an investigation into the disturbing allegations of extensive financial mismanagement by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This secret multi-million dollar ATF slush fund appears to be a gross abuse of taxpayer dollars.

I am deeply troubled by reports that the ATF purposefully ran this slush fund in order to skirt congressional and administrative oversight. The reports are staggering. What began as a tool for investigations into tobacco smuggling quickly morphed into a blank check for ATF agents to acquire outlandish items and to mix government and private funds—with no accountability to the taxpayers who fund it. The lax oversight by the ATF appears to have allowed for informants to make millions of dollars, a suite at a NASCAR event, donations to private entities associated with ATF agents, credit cards for unlimited travel expenses, and an entire fleet of luxury vehicles, among other outrageous expenses that were made without any method to track the funds.

Montanans and all Americans deserve to know the truth about this reported activity. Part of the mission of your office is to “detect and deter waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct in the DOJ programs and personnel.” These allegations raise concerns as to the legitimacy of ATF financial operations, and I believe it is well within the purview of the DOJ Inspector General to get to the bottom of this.

The American people expect their public servants to be responsible stewards of public resources. These allegations raise serious questions about the oversight capability of one of our top law enforcement entities, and I believe enough information exists to warrant an investigation. I appreciate your thorough attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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