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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

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COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

JUDICIARY

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

INTELLIGENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

Mr. Joe Levi
1844 West 1975 South
Syracuse, Utah 84075

Dear Mr. Levi:

Thank you for your letter expressing your opposition to the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE).

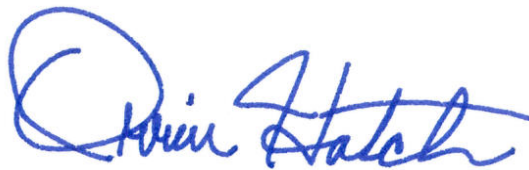
As you may know, the President submitted Mr. Sullivan's name to the Senate on March 22, 2007. The Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, reported the nomination on November 8 and action on the Senate floor is currently pending.

With regard to nominations to positions within the Executive Branch, I believe the most important criteria is the nominee's qualifications for the specific post. In general, I do not believe that nominees for any position should be held up for purely political reasons.

That being said, please know that I have long been a supporter of the Second Amendment. The Constitution clearly guarantees the right of Americans to own firearms and our freedom depends on Congress's adherence to the limits that are set out in the Bill of Rights. Rest assured that, as the Senate continues its consideration of the Sullivan nomination, I will be mindful of the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Thank you, once again, for your letter.

Sincerely,



Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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