



GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

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Dear Senator:

Barack Obama campaigned for the presidency on the proposition that he supported the Second Amendment as an individual right which protects law-abiding Americans. Time and again, we witnessed him and his supporters reassuring gun owners in pivotal states like Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

So it comes as a bit of a surprise that one of his first actions as president-elect was his choice to give jurisdiction over Second Amendment issues to a proposed attorney general who is one of the most rabid gun-haters in recent years.

Eric Holder, who served as Deputy Attorney General from 1997-2001, is on record supporting a 3-day waiting period for handgun purchases, one-gun-a-month rationing, licensing and registering of all gun owners, mandatory so-called smart gun technology, a lifetime gun ban for certain juvenile offenses and regulating gun shows out of existence.

As Janet Reno's top deputy, Holder was the go-to person on gun control. In a 1999 statement, Holder told members of Congress not to cave in to "the special interest that value the cold hard steel of guns more than the lives of children, neighbors and police officers," and urged them to pass legislation that would have destroyed the gun show industry. Holder's inflammatory anti-gun screed made no reference to the millions of successful self-defense uses of firearms every year by law-abiding citizens.

In 2000, Holder was instrumental in the Clinton Administration's effort to strong arm firearms manufacturers into voluntarily accepting regulations that it could not get through the Congress. In a brazen legislation-by-extortion plot, the federal government filed suit against gun makers but offered to drop the suit if the companies would bow to the administration's demands. One company, British owned Smith & Wesson, went along with the deal, but no others joined the unholy alliance.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, in an op-ed in the Washington Post Holder pushed for more gun control and greater restrictions on gun shows, even though the terrorists were armed with box cutters that could be purchased at any hardware store.

This year, Holder joined Janet Reno and 11 other former Justice Department officials in an amicus brief before the Supreme Court arguing *in favor* of the gun ban in Washington D.C. The Holder/Reno brief also lambastes John Ashcroft for having the temerity to take the position that the Second Amendment protects an individual right -- not just the right of the government.

The selection of Eric Holder as nominee for Attorney General is a cynical slap in the face of law-abiding gun owners. Gun Owners of America urges the U.S. Senate to reject this anti-Second Amendment activist should the incoming president persist in pushing this nomination forward.

GOA will score this vote in its 2010 Congressional rating.

Sincerely,

Larry Pratt

Larry Pratt
Executive Director