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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
March 5, 2013

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The Honorable B. Todd Jones
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Jones:

I write urging the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to rescind approval of gun products which allow for certain semiautomatic assault rifles to function as fully automatic when equipped with permanent "bump fire" accessories.

One company, and perhaps others, manufactures an accessory called a Slide Fire Stock which, when attached to an AR-15 or an AK-47, utilizes recoil inertia to fire continuously. Hundreds of videos displaying shooters using the Slide Fire Stock are available online. In one video, a shooter using a Slide Fire Stock on an AR-15 fires 100 rounds of ammunition in only eight seconds, equating to a rate of fire of 750 rounds per minute. This rate of fire is substantially higher than any rate of fire achievable by traditional semiautomatic means.

The National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) intended to "deprive (a criminal) of his most dangerous weapon, the machine gun," which is defined as a firearm which may shoot multiple cartridges with a single function of the trigger. The NFA generally prohibits fully automatic firearms, with the exception of those registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). These types of weapons are considered so dangerous the owner must complete a thorough background check, submit fingerprints, and have the endorsement from the local chief of police.

In a letter dated June 7th, 2010, from ATF to an unmentioned recipient, the ATF states the Slide Fire Stock "is a firearm part and is not regulated as a firearm under the Gun Control Act or the National Firearms Act." A copy of this letter is provided with every Slide Fire Stock, presumably to reassure any individuals who question the legality of the Slide Fire Stock equipped assault rifle.

I believe weapons featuring Slide Fire Stocks or similar permanent accessories employing bump fire mechanics transform an otherwise legal firearm into a weapon the NFA intended to prohibit except when properly registered.

There is no denying 750 rounds per minute is a danger to our communities. Whether the rate of fire is caused by internal mechanical parts or by a permanent external accessory, the lethality is the same. Therefore, the application of the NFA should be the same. I ask the ATF to rescind its June 7, 2010, letter and notify any and all manufacturers of "bump fire" accessories of such rescission, and that the sale of these types of accessories is subject to the National Firearms Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress