

United States Senate

June 21, 2023

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

Dear Commissioner Werfel,

I write today seeking further clarification surrounding events that took place on June 14, 2023 at Highwood Creek Outfitters gun shop in Great Falls, Montana. According to the owner and local reporting on the event, 20 armed federal agents entered the store, remained on the premises for several hours, and confiscated several boxes worth of documents. Among the documents reportedly seized were Firearms Transaction Records (ATF Form 4473) that contain the personally identifiable information (PII) of prospective firearm purchasers.

With the PII of an unknown number of Montanans potentially collected by your agents, the store's customers and the community are rightfully concerned. As a result, local law enforcement has been inundated with calls and inquiries seeking information they are unable to provide. With this in mind, I am seeking a prompt response to the following questions:

1. What was the scope of the search warrant you used to gain access to the store?
2. Were ATF Form 4473's seized as part of the investigation? If so, what do your agencies intend to do with the information they contain?
3. What communication, if any, did you have with local and state law enforcement prior to the events of June 14th?
4. Will you commit to sharing pertinent information and updates regarding your investigation, where appropriate, with local law enforcement and the community moving forward?

A commitment to transparency and integrity by your agencies during this investigation is crucial to addressing the real concerns of local residents and enhancing public trust. Accordingly, I look forward to your detailed and comprehensive response in the near future.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Steve Dettelbach, Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives