<u>UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT</u> <u>SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK</u>

EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY SUPPORT FUND,)	
Plaintiff,)	Y
v.)	Case No. 18-CV-2296 (AJN)
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES,)	
Defendant.)))	

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF ALLA LEFKOWITZ IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF ITS CROSS-MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

I, ALLA LEFKOWITZ, of full age, declare:

- 1. I am an attorney of record for plaintiff Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. I am a member in good standing of the New York State Bar, and am admitted to practice before this Court. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this declaration. If called upon to do so, I am competent to testify to all matters set forth herein.
- 2. I am the Deputy Director for Affirmative Litigation at Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) gun violence prevention organization headquartered in New York, NY.
- 3. Attached hereto to as Exhibit A is a document compiling true and correct excerpts from federal appropriations acts, containing the various versions of the Tiahrt Rider:
 - Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Pub. L. No. 108-7, 117 Stat. 11 (2003)
 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-199, 118 Stat. 3 (2004)
 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. No. 108-447, 118 Stat. 2809 (2004)

- Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-108, 119 Stat. 2290 (2006)
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-161, 121 Stat. 1844 (2007)
- Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-8, 123 Stat. 524, 575-76 (2009)
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-117, 123 Stat. 3034, 3128–29 (2009)
- Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552, 609-10 (2011)
- 4. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the Defendant's Notice of Motion and Motion for Summary Judgment; Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support Thereof; Proposed Order, Center for Investigative Reporting, v. United States Department of Justice, Case No. 17-cv-6557-JSC (N.D. Cal. Apr. 26, 2018).
- 5. Attached hereto as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of the Defendant's Reply in Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment and Opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment, Center for Investigative Reporting, v. United States Department of Justice, Case No. 17-cv-6557-JSC (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2018).
- 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the administrative record (Bates Number: ATF AR 0391-0446) filed in *Ron Peterson Firearms, LLC v. Jones*, Case No. 11-cv-00678 (D.N.M Feb. 27, 2012). The exhibit also includes the notice of administrative record.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of New York that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed on November 30, 2018 in New York, New York.

Alla Lefkowitz

EXHIBIT A

Text of Tiahrt Riders—2003 to 2012

2003 Tiahrt Rider

Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Pub. L. No. 108-7, 117 Stat. 11 (2003)

SEC. 644. No funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be available to take any action based upon any provision of 5 U.S.C. 552 with respect to records collected or maintained pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 846(b), 923(g)(3) or 923(g)(7), or provided by Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies in connection with arson or explosives incidents or the tracing of a firearm, except that such records may continue to be disclosed to the extent and in the manner that records so collected, maintained, or obtained have been disclosed under 5 U.S.C. 552 prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

2004 Tiahrt Rider

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-199, 118 Stat. 3 (2004)

Provided further, That no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose to the public the contents or any portion thereof of any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, except that this provision shall apply to any request for information made by any person or entity after January 1, 1998

2005 Tiahrt Rider

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. No. 108-447, 118 Stat. 2809 (2004)

Provided further, That no funds appropriated under this or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), to anyone other than a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency or a prosecutor solely in connection with and for use in a bona fide criminal investigation or prosecution and then only such information as pertains to the geographic jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency requesting the disclosure and not for use in any civil action or proceeding other than an action or proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or a review of such an action or proceeding, to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, and all such data shall be immune from legal process and shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery in any civil action in a State or Federal court or in any administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to enforce the provisions of that chapter, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title)

2006 Tiahrt Rider

Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-108, 119 Stat. 2290 (2006)

Provided further, That no funds appropriated under this or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), to anyone other than a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency or a prosecutor solely in connection with and for use in a bona fide criminal investigation or prosecution and then only such information as pertains to the geographic jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency requesting the disclosure and not for use in any civil action or proceeding other than an action or proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or a review of such an action or proceeding, to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, and all such data shall be immune from legal process and shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based upon such data, in any civil action pending on or filed after the effective date of this Act in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in any administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of that chapter, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title)

2007 Tiahrt Rider

Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-5, 121 Stat. 8 (2007)

The 2007 appropriation was a year-end continuing resolution that incorporated by reference the appropriations bill containing the 2006 Tiahrt Rider.

2008 Tiahrt Rider

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-161, 121 Stat. 1844 (2007)

Provided further, That, beginning in fiscal year 2008 and thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), except to: (1) a Federal, State, local, tribal, or foreign law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor, solely in connection with and for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (2) a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the

data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(1)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations

2009 Tiahrt Rider Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-8, 123 Stat. 524, 575-76 (2009)

Provided further. That, beginning in fiscal year 2009 and thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), except to: (1) a Federal, State, local, tribal, or foreign law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor, solely in connection with and for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (2) a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations

2010 Tiahrt Rider Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-117, 123 Stat. 3034, 3128–29 (2009)

Provided further, That, beginning in fiscal year 2010 and thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco. Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), except to: (1) a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or (2) a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with or for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (3) a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose; unless such disclosure of such data to any of the entities described in (1), (2) or (3) of this proviso would compromise the identity of any undercover law enforcement officer or confidential informant, or interfere with any case under investigation; and no person or entity described in (1), (2) or (3) shall knowingly and publicly disclose such data; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations

2011 Tiahrt Rider Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, Pub. L. No. 112-10, 125 Stat. 38, 102–03 (2011)

The 2011 appropriation was a year-end continuing resolution that incorporated by reference the appropriations bill containing the 2010 Tiahrt Rider.

2012 Tiahrt Rider Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552, 609-10 (2011)

Provided further, That, during the current fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section, except to: (1) a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or (2) a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with or for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (3) a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose; unless such disclosure of such data to any of the entities described in (1), (2) or (3) of this proviso would compromise the identity of any undercover law enforcement officer or confidential informant, or interfere with any case under investigation; and no person or entity described in (1), (2) or (3) shall knowingly and publicly disclose such data; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations

EXHIBIT B

1 2 3 4	ALEX G. TSE (CABN 152348) Acting United States Attorney SARA WINSLOW (DCBN 457643) Chief, Civil Division ROBIN M. WALL (CABN 235690) Assistant United States Attorney 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055		
5 6	San Francisco, California 94102-3495 Telephone: (415) 436-7071 Fax: (415) 436-6748 robin.wall@usdoj.gov		
7 8	Attorneys for Defendant		
	UNITED STATE	ES DISTRICT COURT	
9	NORTHERN DIST	RICT OF CALIFORN	IA
10 11	SAN FRANC	CISCO DIVISION	
12	CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE)	Case No. 3:17-cv-06:	557-JSC
13 14 15	REPORTING,) Plaintiff,) v.)	MOTION FOR SUN MEMORANDUM (SUPPORT THEREOF;
16 17 18	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,) Defendant.)	Date and time: Courtroom:	June 28, 2018, 9 a.m. F, 15 th Floor U.S. District Courthouse 450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California
19		Hon. Jacqueline Scot	t Corley
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DEF.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT 3:17-CV-06557 JSC

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1 NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO PLAINTIFF CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 28, 2018, at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Courtroom F, 15th Floor, of the U.S. District Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, the Honorable Jacqueline Scott Corley presiding, defendant U.S. Department of Justice, will appear and move the Court for an order granting summary judgment in defendant's favor pursuant to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Defendant's motion is made on the grounds that plaintiff's request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") would require the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") to create an annualized statistical report, which is not required by FOIA, *see, e.g., National Labor Relations Bd. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 161-62 (1975); and the firearm trace data requested by plaintiff is exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), because Congress has expressly and repeatedly prohibited such disclosure. *See, e.g., Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018).

Defendant's motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the declaration submitted herewith, the pleadings and other papers on file in this action, and on such oral argument and additional evidence as the Court may permit.

RELIEF SOUGHT BY DEFENDANT

Defendant seeks an order summarily adjudicating plaintiff's FOIA claims in the agency's favor.

ISSUES TO BE DETERMINED

Whether defendant is entitled to summary adjudication of plaintiff's FOIA claims in its favor.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Defendant has worked to respond to plaintiff's March 23, 2017, FOIA request, and released records to plaintiff on January 31, February 2, and—completing its production—on March 23, 2018. Only one issue remains for the Court's determination: whether ATF can be compelled to create a statistical report or produce data from ATF's Firearm Trace System database identifying the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the

present," or whether that data is exempt from disclosure. FOIA does not require federal agencies to create records; and ATF is prohibited from disclosing trace data from its database. In a series of appropriations bills from 2005 to 2012, Congress has prohibited ATF from disclosing any such data, and the courts have repeatedly upheld that prohibition against claims brought by FOIA requesters. *See, e.g.*, *Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018). For these reasons, ATF cannot be compelled to produce the firearm trace data plaintiff seeks,

and judgment should be granted in favor of defendant.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") is a law enforcement agency within the U.S. Department of Justice. ATF is responsible for enforcement of federal firearms laws, including the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA), Pub. L. No. 90-618, 82 Stat. 1213 (codified as amended at 18 U.S.C. 921-930). *See* Declaration of Charles J. Houser ("Houser Decl.") ¶¶ 5-6.

B. The ATF's Firearm Trace System Database

Pursuant to the GCA, the U.S. Attorney General is authorized to administer firearms tracing. The Attorney General has delegated ATF the sole federal agency authorized to trace firearms. Houser Decl. ¶ 7.

To carry out its firearms tracing functions, ATF maintains the Firearm Trace System database, which is a massive electronic database that serves to support criminal investigations by federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies. *Id.* at ¶ 8. The database is maintained at the National Tracing Center ("NTC"). *Id.* In response to requests from law enforcement, the NTC provides ATF special agents and other law enforcement agencies with Firearms Trace Result Reports commonly referred to as "trace data" as well as investigative leads obtained from the traced firearm. *Id.* Plaintiff has requested data from the Firearm Trace System database showing the number of firearm traces involving prior law enforcement ownership from 2006 to the present. *See* ECF 1, 1-1.

"Tracing" a firearm is the systematic tracking of a recovered firearm from its manufacturer or importer, through its subsequent introduction into the distribution chain, in order to identify a purchaser. Houser Decl. ¶ 9. A firearm trace begins when the NTC receives a request from a federal, state, local, or

foreign law enforcement agency that has recovered a firearm or suspects a certain firearm has been used in a crime. *Id.* The ATF also requests traces in connection with the investigations that the agency conducts itself. *Id.* Firearms for which traces are requested typically have been recovered at the scene of a crime or from the possession of a suspect, felon, or other person who is prohibited from owning the firearm, or may have been purchased by law enforcement in an undercover capacity. *Id.*

To conduct a trace, the requesting agency must provide the NTC with information about the firearm, including what kind of gun (*e.g.*, pistol, revolver, shotgun), the manufacturer, the caliber, and the serial number. *Id.* at ¶ 10. In a typical case, after receiving a trace request, NTC personnel contact the manufacturer or importer to determine when and to whom the firearm in question was sold. *Id.* When the NTC contacts a Federal Firearm Licensee ("FFL") requesting information, ATF informs the licensee only about the firearm involved in the trace; the FFL is not informed of any circumstances relating to the alleged criminal conduct nor the identity of the law enforcement agency that recovered the firearm. *Id.*

In most instances, the manufacturer or importer has sold the firearm to an FFL wholesaler. *Id.* at ¶ 11. NTC personnel then contact the wholesaler to determine when and to whom the firearm in question was sold, usually to an FFL retailer. *Id.* The tracing process continues as long as records allow and is considered successful when ATF can identify the first retail purchaser (a non-FFL). *Id.* ATF's tracing process generally stops at the first retail purchase because any subsequent disposition of the firearm by a non-FFL is not subject to GCA record-keeping or reporting requirements. *Id.*

When a firearm is traced to domestic law enforcement or a U.S. government agency, the NTC has the ability to continue to trace the firearm through the law enforcement or government agency to determine the firearm's subsequent disposition (if such exists). *Id.* at ¶ 12. For example, it is NTC policy to close routine priority traces with the "S5" close-out code in the Firearm Trace System database, indicating "THIS FIREARM WAS TRACED TO A GOVERNMENT AND/OR LAW ENFORCMENT AGENCY." *Id.* After receiving an S5 result, the trace requestor may ask the NTC to reopen and continue the trace by contacting the law enforcement or government agency that the firearm was traced to in order to obtain additional information. *Id.* There are three additional close-out codes in the Firearm Trace System database (S6, SH, DN) that indicate a firearm was traced to a law enforcement

or government agency. Id.

The Firearm Trace System database contains information associated with each of the hundreds of thousands of firearm traces conducted by ATF each year for more than 23,000 law enforcement agencies. *See* Houser Decl. ¶ 16. As of April 25, 2018, the database contained data associated with 6,876,808 traces. *Id.* The trace database contains a large number of data elements for each trace request—the database contains over 75 tables with a combined total of 800 columns/fields. *Id.* at ¶ 24. Those data elements include information provided to ATF by the agency that requests the trace, as well as information that ATF acquires during the tracing process.

Since 2003, Congress has expressly prohibited ATF from disclosing firearm trace information. *See id.* ¶ 27. The statutory provision prohibiting the disclosure of trace information is often referred to as the Tiahrt Amendment after its sponsor, former U.S. Representative Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.).

The most recent iteration of the Tiahrt Amendment, which prohibits ATF disclosure of trace data, is found in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–155, 125 Stat. 552 (2011) ("2012 Appropriations Act"); *see also* Houser Decl. ¶ 27. The 2012 Appropriations Act provides:

That, during the current fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ...; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding;

125 Stat. 552, 609-610. This same prohibition on disclosure has appeared in annual appropriations since 2005. *See*, *e.g.*, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111–117, 123 Stat. 3034, 3128-29 ("2010 Appropriations Act"); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110–161, 121 Stat. 1844, 1903-04 ("2008 Appropriations Act"); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. No. 108–447, 118 Stat. 2809, 2859–60 ("2005 Appropriations Act").

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C. The Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, generally mandates disclosure upon request of records held by an agency of the federal government. "At the same time, the FOIA contemplates that some information can legitimately be kept from the public through the invocation of nine 'exemptions' to disclosure." Yonemoto v. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, 686 F.3d 681, 687 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1)-(9)), overruled in part on other grounds, Animal Legal Defense Fund v. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, 836 F.3d 987 (9th Cir. 2016). Section 552(b) identifies categories of records that are exempt from compelled disclosure. FOIA thus reflects Congress's determination "to balance the public's need for access to official information with the Government's need for confidentiality." Weinberger v. Catholic Action, 454 U.S. 139, 144 (1981).

In interpreting FOIA, the U.S. Supreme Court "has recognized that the statutory exemptions are intended to have meaningful reach and application." John Doe Agency v. John Doe Corp., 493 U.S. 146, 152 (1989). The Court has also emphasized the need for a "practical approach" to the interpretation of FOIA. Id. at 157; see also FTC v. Grolier Inc., 462 U.S. 19, 28 (1983) (noting the importance of "workable rules" governing the implementation of the FOIA); *United States Dep't of* Justice v. Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, 489 U.S. 749, 779 (1989) (quoting Grolier).

FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), authorizes an agency to withhold records that have been "specifically exempted from disclosure by statute." Courts have repeatedly held that the iterations of the Tiahrt Amendment since 2005 exempt data in the Firearms Trace System database from disclosure pursuant to FOIA. See., e.g., City of Chicago v. U.S. Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 423 F. 3d 777, 781-82 (7th Cir. 2005) ("[T]he 2005 [Appropriations] Act amounts to a change in substantive FOIA law in that it exempts from disclosure [trace] data previously available to the public under FOIA.") (citations omitted); Reep, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5 ("The appropriations bill leaves the ATF with no discretion. And courts have previously held that Exemption 3 protects ATF firearms trace data.") (citations omitted).

D. Plaintiff's FOIA Request

Plaintiff submitted its FOIA request on March 23, 2017. That request sought five categories of information:

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- [1] The National Tracing Center's internal completion codes for law enforcement weapons, current or former.
- [2] Any and all memos, communications, reports, and other to documents related to E-Trace matches of current or former law enforcement weapons, from 2006 to the present.
- [3] Total number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present.
- [4] Copies of any and all communications notifying law enforcement agencies when their current or former weapons have entered or been involved in an E-Trace.
- [5] Copies of policies and guidance dictating how the agency handles law enforcement weapons in E-Trace.

ECF 1-1 at 1. On November 13, 2017, plaintiff filed this lawsuit to compel a response to its request. ECF 1.

Defendant provided interim responses to plaintiff's FOIA request on January 31 and February 2, 2018. Houser Decl. ¶ 21. Defendant provided a third and final response on March 23, 2018. *See id.* Due to the statutory prohibition on release of trace data, defendant was unable to release information from the Firearm Trace System database in response to the third category; although defendant was able to produce existing records outside of the database that reflect traces to prior law enforcement ownership. *See id.* ¶¶ 22-27. Defendant understands that plaintiff maintains that ATF can produce the information requested in the third category. By stipulation dated March 29, 2018, the parties agreed to submit their dispute regarding this issue to the Court for resolution. ECF 24.

III. ARGUMENT

A. Responding to plaintiff's request would require ATF to produce a new statistical report, which cannot be compelled under FOIA.

FOIA does not require an agency to create a document in response to a request. *National Labor Relations Bd. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 161-62 (1975); *see also Zemansky v. U.S. E.P.A.*, 767 F.2d 569, 573-74 (9th Cir. 1985); *Snyder v. Department of Defense*, No. 14-cv-01746-KAW, 2015 WL 9258102, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2015). Plaintiff's request, however, for the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present," would require ATF to do exactly that and create a new annualized statistical report based on data in the Firearms Trace System database. Because FOIA cannot be used to compel ATF to create a new

statistical report, plaintiff's claim should be dismissed. "[A]n agency is not required to create new documents in order to satisfy a FOIA request." *Larouche v. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*, 289 Fed.Appx. 231, 231-32 (9th Cir. 2008) (unpublished) (citing *Kissinger v. Reporters Comm. for the Freedom of the Press*, 445 U.S. 136, 151-52 (1980)).

ATF prepares a number of statistical reports every year, but, to date, ATF has not prepared an annualized report detailing the number of firearms traced back to "former law enforcement ownership," as plaintiff has requested. Houser Decl. ¶ 25. The statistical reports that ATF prepares each year are available on the agency's website. *See generally* "ATF—Data & Statistics," available at https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics; *see also* Houser Decl. ¶ 19. These reports do not include the data sought by plaintiff; nor was ATF able to identify any responsive internal record including all of the requested data in connection with the agency's search in response to plaintiff's FOIA request. *See* Houser Decl. ¶ 25. ATF was able to produce an internal spreadsheet tracking a number of firearms traces involving prior law enforcement ownership, but that spreadsheet does not include data prior to October 2013 and likely does not include every trace record in the Firearms Trace System database for the years covered by the spreadsheet (2013-2017). *See id.* at ¶¶ 22, 25.

In order to provide a report detailing annual traces involving firearms that at some point had been in the possession of law enforcement, ATF would need to run one or more searches on the Firearms Trace System database, compile those searches, identify the requested data, and format that data into an annualized presentation as requested by plaintiff. *See id.* Decl. at ¶¶ 20, 25. FOIA does not require ATF to create documents or reports like this. This is not simply a request that ATF search the Firearms Trace System database to identify relevant records and turn those records over (*i.e.*, the records of every trace including former law enforcement ownership). *See American Small Business League v. U.S. Small Business Administration*, No. C 08-00829-MHP, 2008 WL 3977780, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 26, 2008) (finding that the "application of codes or some form of programming to retrieve" information found in computer records constitutes a "search" for existing records). Rather, plaintiff attempts to use FOIA to compel ATF to compile a new statistical report with annualized data of interest to plaintiff. While plaintiff obviously would like to know how many firearms were traced back to "former law enforcement ownership" in each year from 2006 to today, the agency is not required to "answer questions disguised

as a FOIA request." *Hudgins v. IRS*, 620 F.Supp. 19, 21 (D.D.C. 1985).

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Even if plaintiff's request could be construed as a one for existing records, compelling ATF to run searches on the Firearms Trace System database in order to produce the aggregate statistical data sought by this and every future FOIA requestor would impose a significant and undue burden on the agency. See Houser Decl. ¶ 26. FOIA requires agencies to "make reasonable efforts to search for the records in electronic form or format, except when such efforts would significantly interfere with the operation of the agency's automated information system." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(C). The Firearms Trace System database contains records of over 6.8 million traces with hundreds of data elements. See Houser Decl. at ¶ 24. There are an almost limitless number of requests for "aggregate statistical data" that FOIA requestors could make regarding the data, including searches on different elements, over different timeframes, and broken out in different ways (e.g., annually, monthly, by location, by type of prior ownership, by type of purchaser, by type of firearm). Composing an appropriate search or searches, compiling the results of those searches, deriving the requested "statistical" data, and presenting that in a report would require significant resources that ATF does not have. See id. at ¶¶ 20, 26. Allowing FOIA requestors to determine what statistical data ATF prepares and discloses to the public would likely divert resources and interfere with ATF's ability to prepare and provide the reports of statistical data that the agency currently makes publicly available. See id. Accordingly, Section 522(a)(3)(C) should foreclose plaintiff's request.

B. The requested trace data was properly withheld, because ATF is specifically prohibited from disclosing that data.

FOIA Exemption (b)(3) exempts from disclosure records when they are:

specifically exempted from disclosure by statute ... if that statute (A)(i) requires that the matter be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue; or (A)(ii) establishes particular criteria from withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld; and (B) if enacted after the date of enactment of the Open FOIA Act of 2009, specifically cites to this paragraph.

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3). Since 2003, Congress has expressly prohibited ATF from disclosing firearm trace information.

The most recent prohibition on ATF disclosure of trace data is found in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–155, 125 Stat. 552 (2011) ("2012 Appropriations Act").

The statute provides:

That, during the current fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ...; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding;

2012 Appropriations Act, 125 Stat. 552, 609-610. This same prohibition on disclosure has appeared in annual appropriations since 2005. *See, e.g.*, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111–117, 123 Stat. 3034, 3128–29 ("2010 Appropriations Act"); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110–161, 121 Stat. 1844, 1903-04 ("2008 Appropriations Act"); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. No. 108–447, 118 Stat. 2809, 2859–60 ("2005 Appropriations Act").

Pursuant to the 2012 Appropriations Act and the prior appropriations acts, the ATF is prohibited from using federal funds "to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the [ATF]." 125 Stat. at 609-610. That prohibition is ongoing and pursuant to the act applies "during the current fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter." *Id.*; see also 2005 Appropriations Act, 118 Stat. 2809, 2859-60 ("That no funds appropriated under this or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database") (emphasis added). The 2012 and earlier Appropriations Acts further provide that "all such [trace] data shall be immune from legal process, [and] shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery." 125 Stat. at 609-610. Of course, responding to plaintiff's request would require disclosure of part of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by ATF. See Houser Decl. at ¶ 23, 25. Because ATF may not use federal funds to respond to the request and the requested data is immune from legal process, plaintiff's request to compel disclosure should be denied and judgment entered in defendant's favor. See, e.g., City of Chicago v. U.S. Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 423 F. 3d 777, 781-82 (7th Cir. 2005).

The appropriations bills passed since 2005 leave the ATF with no discretion. Courts have

previously and consistently held that Exemption 3 protects ATF firearms trace data from disclosure under FOIA. *See, e.g., Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice,* No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902, at *5 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018); *P.W. Arms, Inc. v. United States,* No. C15-1990-JCC, 2017 WL 319250, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 23, 2017) ("[T]he Court ... adopts the holding of the vast majority of cases addressing this issue: 'disclosure prohibitions set forth by Congress in the 2005 and 2008 appropriations bills are still effective prospectively and beyond those fiscal years as a permanent prohibition, until such time as Congress expresses the intent to repeal or modify them.") (citation omitted); *Fowlkes v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives,* 139 F.Supp.3d 287, 291-92 (D.D.C. 2015) (finding ATF's decision to withhold trace information pursuant to Exemption 3 to be "proper"); *Abdeljabbar v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives,* 74 F.Supp.3d 158, 174-75 (D.D.C. 2014); *Higgins v. U.S. Dep't of Justice,* 919 F.Supp.2d 131, 145 (D.D.C. 2013) (finding the withholding of trace information pursuant to Exemption (b)(3) proper because "[t]he appropriations legislation on which [the ATF] relies explicitly bars disclosure of information 'maintained by the National Trace Center ... '") (citation omitted).

While admittedly, the versions of the Tiahrt amendment passed in 2010 and 2012 were "enacted

While admittedly, the versions of the Tiahrt amendment passed in 2010 and 2012 were "enacted after the date of enactment of the Open FOIA Act of 2009," and do not "specifically cite[] to" 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3) as currently required by Exemption 3, the courts that have looked at this issue have concluded that the issue did not "need [to] be addressed ... as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 does satisfy that subsection and ... provides a *permanent prohibition* against disclosure that is not limited to the fiscal year of the appropriated funds granted therein." *Abdeljabbar*, 74 F.Supp.3d at 174-75 (quoting *Smith v. ATF*, No. 13–13079, 2014 WL 3565634, at *5 n. 2 (E.D. Mich. July 18, 2014) (emphasis added)). As the district court in *Smith* explained:

Congress could not have been more specific about what types of records should be withheld. The [2008 Appropriations Act] obviously states the criteria for withholding records, satisfying [FOIA] Exemption 3 [T]he application of the Act to Exemption 3 is reasonable and consistent with the applicable law because the [2008 Appropriations Act] is a permanent law that does not merely apply to a single fiscal year. Although it is an appropriations bill for the fiscal year of 2008, the pertinent paragraph begins by stating "[t]hat, beginning in fiscal year 2008 and thereafter, no funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database." The Act's prohibition on disclosure continues beyond fiscal year 2008 ("and thereafter"), and it also extends to all other laws ("any

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other Act"). The prohibition on the expenditure of appropriated funds to disclose records from the Firearms Trace System, therefore, extends laterally to other existing laws, but also prospectively and beyond fiscal year 2008.

Smith, 2014 WL 3565634, at *6 (internal citations and footnotes omitted).

The earlier 2005 Appropriation Act includes similar language—"no funds appropriated under this or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database"—and for this reason, the district court in *Abdeljabbar* found that "the disclosure prohibitions set forth by Congress in the 2005 and 2008 appropriations bills are still effective prospectively and beyond those fiscal years as a permanent prohibition, until such time as Congress expresses the intent to repeal or modify them." 74 F.Supp.3d at 175.

The *Abdeljabbar* court also rejected the notion that the 2010 and 2012 Appropriation Acts "effectively repealed the language found in the 2005 and 2008 Acts." *Id.* "[R]epeals by implication are not favored ... and will not be found unless an intent to repeal is 'clear and manifest." *Rodriguez v. United States*, 480 U.S. 522, 524 (1987) (citations omitted). Thus, "a later statute will not be held to have implicitly repealed an earlier one unless there is a clear repugnancy between the two." *United States v. Fausto*, 484 U.S. 439, 453 (1988) (citation omitted). As the *Abdeljabbar* court concluded:

Congress's decision to incorporate similar language into appropriations bills after 2009 demonstrates its intent to continue the disclosure prohibition; to find otherwise would require this Court to reach the implausible conclusion that Congress intended to repeal by implication a disclosure prohibition, at least with respect to FOIA, by reiterating that very prohibition in subsequent legislation. And such a conclusion would contravene the strong presumption "that Congress will specifically address language on the statute books that it wishes to change."

. . .

Given the plethora of decisions from this Court holding that the appropriations language in question is an appropriate statutory predicate for withholding information pursuant to Exemption (b)(3), Congress's uninterrupted use of this language in appropriations bills after 2009 supports the conclusion that Congress did not intend for the judiciary to depart from this long-standing position

74 F.Supp.3d at 175-76 (citation omitted). In sum, the court concluded that "the 2005 and 2008 appropriations language continues to satisfy the requirements of FOIA's Exemption (b)(3), and may be invoked by the ATF to withhold the trace information." *Id.* at 176.

Finally, the exception to the Tiahrt Amendment included in the 2008 Appropriations Act does

not alter this analysis. That exception provides that:

[T]his proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(1)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations

2008 Appropriations Act, 121 Stat. at 1904; *see also* 2012 Appropriations Act, 125 Stat. 552, 609-610; 2010 Appropriations Act, 123 Stat. 3034, 3128-29. This exception, which also appears in subsequent appropriations language, permits ATF to publish its annual Firearms Manufacturers And Export Reports (subpart A) and state-by-state and international reports utilizing trace data (subpart C). *See generally* ATF—Data & Statistics, https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics. Significantly, subpart (C) permits the "publication of annual statistical reports ... or statistical aggregate data" by ATF. The provision's language does not permit or even contemplate the release of trace data in response to FOIA requests. Subpart (C) certainly does not confer on FOIA requesters the authority to determine what statistical data ATF prepares and publishes in its annual reports.

There is no "clear and manifest" intent expressed in the 2008 appropriations language to open up the trace database to FOIA requests and undo the "change in substantive FOIA law" effected by the 2005 Appropriations Act. *See City of Chicago*, 423 F.3d at 781. Indeed, the exemption from disclosure of "data previously available to the public under FOIA" effected by the 2005 Appropriations Act (*see id.*) has been repeatedly affirmed by Congress. Thus, the 2008 language that permits ATF to publish certain statistical reports should not be read as an implicit amendment of the exemption from release pursuant to FOIA. *See Fausto*, 484 U.S. at 453.

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CONCLUSION For the foregoing reasons, defendant respectfully requests that the Court grant judgment in defendant's favor on plaintiff's claim to compel the production of trace data related to prior law enforcement ownership. Dated: April 26, 2018 Respectfully submitted, ALEX G. TSE Acting United States Attorney /s/ Robin M. Wall ROBIN M. WALL Assistant United States Attorney Attorneys for Defendant U.S. Department of Justice

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11	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
12	CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE) Case No. 3:17-cv-06557-JSC	
13	REPORTING,)) PROPOSED ORDER	
14	Plaintiff,	}	
	V.)	
15	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF)	
16	JUSTICE,		
17	Defendant.		
18		1	
19	PI	ROPOSED ORDER	
20	Having considered defendant's motio	n for summary judgment, plaintiff's opposition,	
21	pleadings and other papers on file in this action	on, and having heard from the parties at oral arg	

Having considered defendant's motion for summary judgment, plaintiff's opposition, and the pleadings and other papers on file in this action, and having heard from the parties at oral argument, the Court finds that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") appropriately withheld data from the agency's Firearm Trace System database in response to plaintiff's March 23, 2017, Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request.

As an initial matter, in order to respond to plaintiff's request for the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present," ATF would need to create a new annualized statistical report, because there are no existing records at the agency that have compiled the requested data. Declaration of Charles J. Houser ("Houser Decl.") ¶¶ 22-23, 25. FOIA,

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however, does not require federal agencies to create new documents. See, e.g., National Labor 1 2 Relations Bd. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 421 U.S. 132, 161-62 (1975); Larouche v. U.S. Securities and 3 Exchange Commission, 289 Fed.Appx. 231, 231-32 (9th Cir. 2008) (unpublished). 4 The firearm trace data requested by plaintiff is also exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA 5 exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), because Congress has expressly and repeatedly prohibited such 6 disclosure. See, e.g., Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice, No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018). Responding to plaintiff's request would require the ATF to run 7 8 searches on and disclose information from the Firearm Trace System database. See Houser Decl. ¶¶ 22-23, 25. In a series of appropriations bills from 2005 to 2012, Congress has prohibited ATF from using 9 federal funds "to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained 10 11 by the National Trace Center of the [ATF]." Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-12 155, 125 Stat. 552, 609-610. This appropriations language "amounts to a change in substantive FOIA 13 law in that it exempts from disclosure [trace] data previously available to the public under FOIA." City of Chicago v. U.S. Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 423 F. 3d 777, 781-82 14 15 (7th Cir. 2005) (citations omitted). Courts have previously and consistently held that Exemption 3 16 protects ATF firearms trace data from disclosure under FOIA. See, e.g., Reep, 2018 WL 1461902, at *5; P.W. Arms, Inc. v. United States, No. C15-1990-JCC, 2017 WL 319250, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 23, 17 18 2017); Fowlkes v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 139 F.Supp.3d 287, 291-92 19 (D.D.C. 2015); Abdeljabbar v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 74 F.Supp.3d 158, 174-75 (D.D.C. 2014); Higgins v. U.S. Dep't of Justice, 919 F.Supp.2d 131, 145 (D.D.C. 2013). 20 21 Accordingly, ATF is prohibited from disclosing trace data from its database in this case; and such data 22 was appropriately withheld pursuant to FOIA exemption 3. 23 For these reasons, ATF's response to plaintiff's FOIA request was appropriate and judgment is entered in favor of the defendant on plaintiff's claim to compel the production of firearm trace data. 24 25 IT IS SO ORDERED. 26 27 Dated: 2018 HON. JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY 28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EXHIBIT C

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9	NORTHERN DIST	TRICT OF CALIFO	RNIA
10	SAN FRAN	CISCO DIVISION	
11			
12	CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING,) Case No. 3:17-cv-	-06557-JSC
13	Plaintiff,		REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND
14	V.	OPPOSITION T	O PLAINTIFF'S CROSS- SUMMARY JUDGMENT
15	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF) Date and time:	June 28, 2018, 9 a.m.
16	JUSTICE,	Courtroom:	F, 15 th Floor U.S. District Courthouse
17	Defendant.)))	450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California
18)) Hon. Jacqueline S	Scott Corley
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Fitzgibbon v. C.I.A., 911 F.2d 755 (D.C. Cir. 1990)
Henry v. Department of Justice, No. C-13-05924-DMR, 2015 WL 5138265 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 1, 2015)
Hudgins v. IRS, 620 F.Supp. 19 (D.D.C. 1985)
Larouche v. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 289 Fed. Appx. 231 (9th Cir. 2008)
Long v. U.S. Dep't of Justice, 450 F. Supp. 2d 42 (D.D.C. 2006)
Muhammad v. US. Dep't of Justice, No. 2:09-1255, 2007 WL 433552 (S.D. Ala. Feb. 6, 2007)
National Labor Relations Bd. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 421 U.S. 132 (1975)
National Security Counselors v. CIA, 898 F. Supp. 2d 233 (D.D.C. 2012)
National Shooting Sports Foundation v. Jones, 840 F. Supp. 2d 310 (D.D.C. 2012)
Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice, No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018)
Ring Precision, Inc. v. Jones, No. SA-11-CA-663, 2012 WL 12883131 (W.D. Tex. July 2, 2012)
Ron Peterson Firearms, LLC v. Jones, No. 11-cv-00678-JEC/LFG, 2013 WL 12085975 (D.N.M. March 27, 2013)
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1	Smith v. ATF, No. 13-13079, 2014 WL 3565634 (E.D. Mich. July 18, 2014)
2 3	Snyder v. Department of Defense, No. 14-cv-01746-KAW, 2015 WL 9258102 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2015)
4	<i>United States v. Fausto</i> , 484 U.S. 439 (1988)
56	Zemansky v. U.S. E.P.A., 767 F.2d 569 (9th Cir. 1985)
7	Statutes
8	5 U.S.C. § 552
9	18 U.S.C. § 923
10	18 U.S.C. §§ 921-931
11	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 108–447, 118 Stat. 2809
12	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110–161, 121 Stat. 1844
1314	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–155, 125 Stat. 552
15	Other Authorities
16	H.R. Rep. No. 240, 110th Congress, 1st Sess. (2007) (House Report to the 2008 Appropriations Act), available at 2007 WL 2075231
17 18	H.R. Rep. No. 576, 108th Congress, 2d Sess. (2004) (House Report to the 2005 Appropriations Act), available at 2004 WL 3044771
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INTRODUCTION

This case presents two principal issues: First, does the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA")
require the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") to conduct a new statistical
analysis of the records in its Firearm Trace System database and produce that analysis to plaintiff; and
second, do a series of provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2005, 2008, 2010, and
2012—often referred to as the "Tiahrt Amendment"—prohibit ATF from running a new search on the
same database to produce firearm trace records responsive to plaintiff's request for the "[t]otal number
of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present." The
answer to both questions is clear: ATF is <u>not</u> required to prepare and publish new statistical analyses of
the Firearm Trace System database in response to FOIA requests; and the Tiahrt Amendment does
prohibit ATF from disclosing records in that database. Both answers support summary judgment in
favor of ATF. See, e.g., Larouche v. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 289 Fed. Appx. 231,
231-32 (9th Cir. 2008) ("[A]n agency is not required to create new documents in order to satisfy a FOIA
request.") (unpublished) (citation omitted); Abdeljabbar v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
Explosives, 74 F. Supp. 3d 158, 176 (D.D.C. 2014) ("[T]he 2005 and 2008 appropriations language
continues to satisfy the requirements of FOIA's Exemption (b)(3), and may be invoked by the ATF to
withhold the trace information.").
The ancillary questions raised by plaintiff—including (a) whether FOIA requires ATF to search

The ancillary questions raised by plaintiff—including (a) whether FOIA requires ATF to search the firearm trace database even though it is prohibited from disclosing the records identified in any such search, and (b) whether ATF has previously disclosed the trace records sought here—should also be decided for ATF. FOIA requires responding agencies to make only "reasonable efforts" to search; but it would not be reasonable to require the empty formality of a search of a database where, as here, the responding agency is specifically prohibited from disclosing the contents of that database. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(C). Nor has ATF previously disclosed or "officially acknowledged" the contents of the database that plaintiff seeks. *See* ECF 26-1 (Declaration of Charles J. Houser) ("Houser Decl.) at ¶ 25; Second Declaration of Charles J. Houser ("2d Houser Decl.") at ¶¶ 18-19. In sum, ATF is entitled to summary judgment and respectfully requests that the Court grant judgment for the defendant and deny plaintiff's cross-motion.

ARGUMENT

I. Plaintiff's FOIA request requires ATF to prepare and produce a new statistical report, which cannot be compelled under FOIA

There is no dispute that ATF cannot be compelled to create a new document or record in response to plaintiff's FOIA request. *See, e.g., National Labor Relations Bd. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 161-62 (1975); *see also Zemansky v. U.S. E.P.A.*, 767 F.2d 569, 573-74 (9th Cir. 1985); *Snyder v. Department of Defense*, No. 14-cv-01746-KAW, 2015 WL 9258102, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2015). The dispute in this case is whether plaintiff's request for the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present," would require ATF to do so. Because there is no existing record, report, or publication at ATF that includes the requested statistical data (*see* Houser Decl. at ¶ 25; 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 18-19), ATF would have to analyze the contents of its Firearm Trace Database and prepare a new statistical analysis to provide a responsive record. FOIA cannot be used to compel that disclosure. *See, e.g., Larouche*, 289 Fed. Appx. at 231-32 (unpublished).

Plaintiff argues that FOIA can be used to compel the production of records stored in electronic databases even if retrieving those records "require[s] the application of codes or some form of programming" to retrieve. ECF 27 (Plaintiff's Opposition and Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment ("Opp.") at 22-23 (quoting *National Security Counselors v. CIA*, 898 F.Supp.2d 233, 259 (D.D.C. 2012)). That is not the issue here. ATF is not arguing that the firearm trace records (or any other electronic records, including emails) are immune from production under FOIA because they are stored in an electronic database or can only be retrieved by an electronic search of that database. Rather, plaintiff's FOIA request for statistical data related to weapons "traced back to former law enforcement ownership" is problematic because it is not asking for the trace records themselves, but data about the number and type of those records. The *National Security Counselors* case cited by plaintiff discusses a similar issue. As the district court in that case explained:

Producing a listing or index of records, however, is different than producing particular points of data (*i.e.*, the records themselves). This is because a particular listing or index of the contents of a database would not necessarily have existed prior to a given FOIA request. ... The same would be true of paper, rather than electronic, records. For example, if a FOIA request sought "an inventory of all non-electronic records created in 1962 regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis," an agency need not create an

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inventory if one did not already exist, though the agency would need to release any such non-electronic records themselves if they were requested and were not exempt from disclosure. Therefore, a FOIA request for a listing or index of a database's contents that does not seek the contents of the database, but instead essentially seeks information about those contents, is a request that requires the creation of a new record, insofar as the agency has not previously created and retained such a listing or index.

898 F. Supp. 2d at 271 (citation omitted). Here, plaintiff is seeking something like a list or index of certain firearm trace records, or, more precisely, certain statistical data *derived* from such a list or index. ATF cannot be compelled to conduct this statistical analysis under FOIA. *See id.* at 272 ("[T]he CIA may not be required to produce an index or database listing in response to a FOIA request").

Thus, plaintiff is incorrect when it argues that "ATF concedes it need only perform a search of its database using codes that are on hand to retrieve the requested records." Opp. at 23. ATF could search the Firearm Trace database to identify the trace records involving traces "back to former law enforcement ownership," but plaintiff is not asking for those records—the parties agree that ATF is prohibited from producing them. See Opp. at 3 (stating that the Tiahrt "made individual trace data secret"). Instead, plaintiff is impermissibly using FOIA to seek "information about" the database's contents without disclosure of the records themselves. See National Security Counselors, 898 F. Supp.2d at 271. Specifically, plaintiff is asking ATF to disclose how many records involving prior law enforcement ownership there are in each year going back to 2006. To provide that information, ATF would need to (1) run searches on the database to identify the trace records themselves; (2) count those trace records in order to create the requested annualized statistical analysis of the contents of the database, and (3) then produce that new analysis. (This is a simplified description—the actual process employed by ATF to prepare similar statistical analyses and ensure their accuracy and fair presentation is likely more involved. See Houser Decl. at ¶ 19-20.) FOIA only requires ATF to go so far as step (1)—run a reasonable search—and then produce the records located by the searches. What plaintiff seeks here—moving on to steps (2) and (3)—is not compelled by FOIA.

In part, the parties' dispute regarding this issue is created by plaintiff's FOIA request, which seeks "information," not records. ECF 1-1 at 2 (March 23, 2017 FOIA Request). To the extent that plaintiff is asking ATF to answer the question "what is the 'total number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present," FOIA does not require a

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response. *Hudgins v. IRS*, 620 F. Supp. 19, 21 (D.D.C. 1985) (agency not required to "answer questions disguised as a FOIA request"). To avoid this issue and try in good faith to respond to plaintiff's request, ATF has interpreted plaintiff's request to seek <u>records</u> reflecting that information—*i.e.*, records reflecting the "total number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present." As ATF has explained, at the time of the request there were no records reflecting that information. *See* Houser Decl. at ¶ 25; 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 19. ATF does not dispute that it could formulate and run a number of searches on the Firearm Trace System database, analyze the results, and compile the information that plaintiff seeks in order to create such a record, but FOIA does not require the agency to do so (even if the Tiahrt Amendment permitted such disclosures).

The cases cited by plaintiff do not establish an entitlement under FOIA to the data analysis and production requested here. For example, in Long v. U.S. Dep't of Justice, the plaintiff sought records maintained in or related to "the central case management databases of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (the "EOUSA"), a component of the Department of Justice." 450 F. Supp. 2d 42, 45-46 (D.D.C. 2006). The district court noted that FOIA required the disclosure of non-exempt portions of records in the databases to the extent those non-exempt portions were not "inextricably intertwined with exempt portions." Id. at 53 (citation omitted). The records requested contained a number of "fields" in the database, with each field labeled according to the information contained in that portion of the record. Thus, for example, a record might contain fields for "name," "court name," and "file name," which contained non-exempt information, as well as additional fields containing exempt information. See id. at 71-73. The district court ordered the Department of Justice to disclose the information contained in the non-exempt fields in certain records. *Id.* at 86. *Long* has no application here, because plaintiff is not seeking the disclosure of the underlying records or part of those records—e.g., any specific field or fields in those records—and the Tiahrt Amendment would prohibit such disclosure. Instead, plaintiff is asking the Court to order ATF to count how many times, for example, the close-out code for traces involving prior law enforcement ownership appears in the relevant field in the trace records in the database from 2006 to the present, and then prepare a new statistical report of those numbers. Long provides no basis to compel that statistical analysis and disclosure.

The additional cases cited by plaintiff concern requests for records maintained in electronic

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5	the alleged "surveillance of so
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12	data related to any existing red
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14	A. The Tiahrt Ar Trace System
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16	As explained in defend
17	an agency to withhold records
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mation regarding the contents of those databases. For example, in *Henry* plaintiffs sought FBI records related to themselves, such as "emails, ums of Investigation, Reports of Investigation, Field Operation Agents' notes, arrest evaluations, and investigation," in order to investigate ocial justice advocates." No. C-13-05924-DMR, 2015 WL 5138265, at *1 Bothwell v. CIA, the plaintiff sought records in the possession of the CIA tedly connected to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and No. 13-cv-05439-JSC, 2014 WL 5077186, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 9, 2014). nion Foundation of Arizona v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., the plaintiffs er patrol operations. No. CV-14-02052, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11610, at n all three cases, the plaintiffs sought the records themselves, not statistical cords; accordingly, they do not support plaintiff's FOIA request here.

FOIA in its response to plaintiff's March 23, 2017, request.

nendment prohibits ATF from disclosing the contents of the Firearms database.

dant's opening brief, FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), authorizes that have been "specifically exempted from disclosure by statute." Courts terations of the Tiahrt Amendment since 2005 exempt data in the Firearms lisclosure pursuant to FOIA. See., e.g., City of Chicago v. U.S. Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 423 F.3d 777, 781-82 (7th Cir. 2005) ("[T]he 2005 [Appropriations] Act amounts to a change in substantive FOIA law in that it exempts from disclosure [trace] data previously available to the public under FOIA.") (citations omitted); Reep v. U.S. Department of Justice, No. 16-cv-1275-RCL, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5 (D.D.C. March 23, 2018) ("The appropriations bill leaves the ATF with no discretion. And courts have previously held that Exemption 3 protects ATF firearms trace data.") (citations omitted).

Plaintiff argues that the data requested here—the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present"—can be released notwithstanding the general prohibition on disclosure. Plaintiff makes a number of arguments in favor

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1	of this position.
2	First, plaintiff argues that the 2012 iteration of the Tiahrt Amendment "specifically permits"
3	"aggregate trace data" to be released pursuant to FOIA and thus Exemption 3 cannot apply. See Opp. at
4	16, 19-22. Contrary to plaintiff's assertion, the relevant language makes no mention of FOIA or the
5	"release" of agency records pursuant to FOIA. The 2012 version of the Tiahrt Amendment provides:
6	[T]his proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol,
7	Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and
8	licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations
10	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–155, 125 Stat. 552 (2011) ("2012
11	Appropriations Act"). The language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 ("2008
12	Appropriations Act") contains identical language:
13	[T]his proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol,
14	Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and
15 16	licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations.
17	Pub. L. No. 110–161, 121 Stat. 1844, 1903-04. Subpart (C) permits the "publication" by ATF of
18	"annual statistical reports" regarding the firearms industry and specified "statistical aggregate data."
19	Subpart (C) does not mention FOIA or use the term "release." Thus, there is no "clear and manifest"
20	intent expressed in the 2012 or 2008 appropriations language to open up the trace database to FOIA
21	requests and undo the "change in substantive FOIA law" effected by the Consolidated Appropriations
22	Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 108–447, 118 Stat. 2809 ("2005 Appropriations Act"). See City of Chicago,
23	423 F.3d at 781. Indeed, the exemption from disclosure of "data previously available to the public under
24	FOIA" effected by the 2005 Appropriations Act (see id.) has been repeatedly affirmed by Congress.
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26	Plaintiff argues that "The disjunctive 'or' in Tiahrt exception (C) distinguishes "statistical data" from
27 28	the previous clause about 'annual statistical reports.'" Opp. at 21. It is not entirely clear what this means or why it compels disclosure pursuant to FOIA. The most natural reading of subpart (C) is that it concerns "publication" by the ATF of either "annual statistical reports" or "statistical aggregate data" as those categories are further defined in the subpart.

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Thus, the 2008 language that permits ATF to publish certain statistical reports should not be read as an implicit amendment of the exemption from release pursuant to FOIA. *See United States v. Fausto*, 484 U.S. 439, 453 (1988) (no implicit repeal without "clear repugnancy" between the statutes).

Importantly, this is a not a case where ATF is withholding a record containing statistical aggregate data that ATF has prepared and which the agency could itself publish under subpart (C). For example, assuming ATF had prepared an annualized statistical analysis of firearm traces to prior law enforcement ownership and tried to withhold that analysis from disclosure pursuant to FOIA, the Court might be asked to determine whether that record was "statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations" that ATF could "publish" under subpart (C); and, if so, whether that rendered the record subject to release in response to a FOIA request. That question is <u>not</u> before the Court, because no such record exists. Rather, plaintiff is asking the Court to compel ATF to run the searches plaintiff wants on the trace database, compile and analyze the data plaintiff seeks, and prepare a record for release to plaintiff. Subpart (C) cannot be read to support such an extension of FOIA. Of course, providing the records in the Firearm Trace System database that would permit plaintiff to prepare its own statistical analysis is squarely prohibited by the overarching prohibition in the Tiahrt Amendment against disclosing "part or all of the contents" of the database. See Reep, 2018 WL 1461902, at *4-5.

Second, plaintiff argues that the 2012 Appropriations Act does not qualify as a "withholding statute under Exemption 3," because it does not reference that exemption as required since 2009. *See* Opp. at 17-19. ATF dealt with this issue at length in its opening brief. *See* ECF 26 (Def.'s Motion for Summary Judgment) ("Mem.") at 10-11. As the cases addressing this issue have explained, the 2008 Appropriations Act satisfied the requirements of Exemption 3 when it was enacted, and the 2008 act "'provides a *permanent prohibition* against disclosure that is not limited to the fiscal year of the appropriated funds granted therein." *Abdeljabbar v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*, 74 F.Supp.3d 158, 174-75 (D.D.C. 2014) (quoting *Smith v. ATF*, No. 13–13079, 2014 WL 3565634, at *5 n. 2 (E.D. Mich. July 18, 2014) (emphasis added)). Thus, the failure of the 2012 language to satisfy Exemption 3 is irrelevant because of the pre-existing permanent prohibition.

Nonetheless, plaintiff argues that the 2012 version of the Tiahrt Amendment "wholly replaced"

the prior statutory language. *See* Opp. at 18. There is no evidence—textual or otherwise—to support this interpretation. That is, there is no evidence that Congress expressly intended to repeal the language of the 2008 Appropriations Act by passing almost identical language in 2010 and 2012. As explained by the district court in *Abdeljabbar*, adopting plaintiff's argument would require the Court to "to reach the implausible conclusion that Congress intended to repeal by implication a disclosure prohibition, at least with respect to FOIA, by reiterating that very prohibition in subsequent legislation." 74 F. Supp. 3d at 175-76 (citation omitted). With respect to subpart (C) in particular, the language in the 2008 and 2012 Appropriations Acts is identical, preventing any inference that Congress intended to repeal the prohibition against disclosing the contents of the trace database by way of that language.

Plaintiff also argues that the production of statistical data in a number of cases brought under the Administrative Procedures Act ("APA") supports the release of the information requested here under FOIA. *See* Opp. at 21-22. The Tiahrt Amendment expressly permits the disclosure of the contents of the trace database (and other firearms data) in APA cases:

[A]ll such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title [18 U.S.C. §§ 921-931], or a review of such an action or proceeding

2012 Appropriations Act, 125 Stat. 552, 609-610 (emphasis added). The three cases cited by plaintiff all involve challenges to ATF's authority under the Gun Control Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. § 921, et seq., and thus fall within the scope of this provision. See, e.g., Ron Peterson Firearms, LLC v. Jones, No. 11-cv-00678-JEC/LFG, 2013 WL 12085975 (D.N.M. March 27, 2013) (federal firearms licensees challenged statutory authority of ATF under, inter alia, 18 U.S.C. § 923 to issue demand letter requiring certain sales reports and decision to target licensees in four border states as "arbitrary and capricious"); 10 Ring Precision, Inc. v. Jones, No. SA-11-CA-663, 2012 WL 12883131 (W.D. Tex. July 2, 2012) (same); National Shooting Sports Foundation v. Jones, 840 F.Supp.2d 310 (D.D.C. Jan. 13, 2012) (same). Accordingly, the production of trace data as part of the administrative record was appropriate under the express terms of the Tiahrt Amendment. There is no similar express authorization for release of data in

response to FOIA requests. Moreover, the ATF's assertion of authority to compile and publish certain aggregate statistical data pursuant to subpart (C) does not concede or in any way imply that a FOIA request can compel the agency to undertake a statistical analysis of the trace database at the direction of a plaintiff or requester.

Plaintiff also points to certain information-sharing agreements that ATF enters into with law enforcement agencies to provide access to and share firearm trace information. *See* Opp. at 5-6. Once again, the Tiahrt Amendment expressly permits disclosures to law enforcement. *See*, *e.g.*, 2012 Appropriations Act, 125 Stat. 552, 609-610 (permitting disclosures to "a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or ... a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with or for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or ... a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose). ATF's firearm tracing program is a law enforcement function. *See generally* Houser Decl. at ¶ 7-15. Traces are initiated at the request of law enforcement and the results of each trace are provided to the requesting law enforcement agency to assist in firearm-related criminal investigations. *See id*. The use of agreements by ATF to formalize the terms and conditions of electronic trace information sharing among law enforcement is not relevant to whether subpart (C) of the Tiahrt provision was intended to give FOIA requesters access to the trace database. *See generally* 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 4-8.

In sum, neither the text of subpart (C) nor the history and purpose of the Tiahrt Amendment support plaintiff's argument that subpart (C) was intended to permit FOIA requestors to compel ATF to produce statistical analyses based on trace records in the agency's trace database.

1. The legislative record does not support plaintiff's interpretation of the Tiahrt Amendment.

Contrary to plaintiff's argument, the interpretation of the Tiahrt Amendment advanced by plaintiff and the disclosure plaintiff seeks to compel are not consistent with the congressional purposes underlying the amendment. Plaintiff identifies what it calls the "two chief concerns over disclosure" underlying the Tiahrt Amendment: "invasions of privacy stemming from identifiable trace records and obstruction of law enforcement investigations into crimes." Opp. at 7 (citations omitted). As the legislative record reveals, Congress had broader concerns than plaintiff describes. As the House Report

concerning the 2005 Appropriations Act states:

In the last two fiscal years the Committee [on Appropriations] has expressed serious concern that, contrary to provisions of the Gun Control Act, as amended, and Congress' intent, certain sensitive law enforcement information contained in databases maintained by the ATF have been subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act and through court action to the public, including civil litigants, firearm manufacturers and distributors, public interest groups and governmental entities, for use other than in bona fide criminal investigations and prosecutions. The Committee concern is not related to budgetary considerations. The intent has been to enforce existing Federal law limiting disclosure of this sensitive law enforcement information solely to law enforcement, and, to the extent current Federal law does not already so restrict disclosure to so provide now.

It is of great concern that releases have occurred, and if repeated, may result in wide-spread disclosure of this information to the public at large. This holds the potential of endangering law enforcement officers and witnesses, jeopardizing on-going criminal investigations and homeland security. The need to maintain these sensitive law enforcement databases on a restricted, confidential basis in accordance with the law and ATF disclosure practices in place for years derives from the sensitive and long-term nature of criminal investigations. In addition, such information, once released, might easily be disseminated through the Internet. This would endanger law enforcement and homeland security, and violate the privacy of innocent citizens and businesses.

H.R. Rep. No. 576, 108th Cong., 2d Sess. (2004) (House Report to the 2005 Appropriations Act), available at 2004 WL 3044771.² This record makes clear that Congress had specific concerns regarding disclosure pursuant to FOIA, and that it intended to limit use of the information in the ATF databases "solely to law enforcement." As the Seventh Circuit explained in *City of Chicago v. United States*Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, "Congress' obvious intention in adding the 'immune from legal process' language to the funding restriction that existed under prior riders was to cut off access to the databases for any reason not related to law enforcement." 423 F.3d 777, 780 (7th Cir. 2005). Plaintiff's proffered interpretation that would compel disclosure under FOIA is thus in tension with, if not flatly inconsistent with, Congress' desire to avoid FOIA disclosure and limit the use of the database to law enforcement.

² The case cited by plaintiff, *Muhammad v. US. Dep't of Justice*, No. 2:09-1255, 2007 WL 433552 (S.D. Ala. Feb. 6, 2007), cites this same 2004 House Report to conclude that "The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 clearly demonstrates Congress' intent to protect the requested information from general public disclosure to avoid endangering law enforcement and homeland security and to avoid violating the privacy of innocent citizens and business." 2007 WL 433552, at *2.

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The House Report also identifies the purpose of the exception to the disclosure prohibition for ATF statistical publications; and that purpose has nothing to do with disclosure pursuant to FOIA. As the House Report states:

> At the same time, the Committee is concerned that the previous language has been interpreted to prevent publication of a long-running series of statistical reports on products regulated by ATF. This was never the intention of the Committee, and the new language should also make clear that those reports may continue to be published in their usual form as they pose none of the concerns associated with law enforcement sensitive information.

H.R. Rep. No. 576, 108th Cong., 2d Sess. (2004). In order to address this issue and permit the publication of statistical reports by ATF, the 2005 Appropriations Act included the following language: "except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title)." That language was further revised in the 2008 Appropriations Act to the version at issue before the Court today. The House Report concerning this provision in the 2008 Appropriations Act states:

> At the same time, the Committee is concerned that the previous year's language has been interpreted to prevent publication of a long-running series of statistical reports on products regulated by ATF. This was never the intention of the Committee, and the fiscal year 2008 language makes clear that those reports may continue to be published in their usual form as they pose none of the concerns associated with law enforcement sensitive information.

H.R. Rep. No. 240, 110th Congress, 1st Sess. (2007) (House Report to the 2008 Appropriations Act), available at 2007 WL 2075231. Thus subpart (C) is not directed at public disclosure pursuant to FOIA, but expressly concerns "publication" of data by ATF as is clear from the text and legislative record.

ATF did not fail to conduct a reasonable search for the records sought by plaintiff.

Plaintiff argues that ATF violated FOIA, because it did not conduct a search of the Firearm Trace System database in response to plaintiff's request for the "[t]otal number of weapons traced back to former law enforcement ownership, annually from 2006 to the present." Opp. at 12-14. Plaintiff is incorrect: FOIA does not obligate ATF to conduct a search for records in a database, when ATF is prohibited from disclosing "part or all of the contents" of that same database. Conducting a search for records in a database that ATF is prohibited from disclosing would be an empty formality. FOIA

requires only that ATF "make reasonable efforts to search" for requested records in electronic form. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(C). Given the prohibition on disclosure of the contents of the Firearm Trace System database, it would not have been reasonable to conduct a search of that database—it would have been a waste of federal employee time and resources.³ Accordingly, ATF has met its search obligations under FOIA with respect to searches of the database.⁴

ATF did conduct a reasonable search for records reflecting the information plaintiff sought and produced an internal working list of firearm traces to prior law enforcement ownership. 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 18. Additionally, in response to plaintiff's FOIA request, the ATF personnel who would have prepared the statistical analysis that plaintiff seeks—if one had been prepared at ATF—confirmed that the requested analysis did not exist. The Violent Crime Analysis Branch, which analyzes trace data and prepares statistical reports for the agency, confirmed that the Branch has not produced any reports that address the total number of firearms recovered and traced back to former law enforcement ownership. 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 19.

Plaintiff has also challenged the adequacy of ATF's search for the fourth category of documents requested by plaintiff: "Copies of any and all communications notifying law enforcement agencies when their current or former weapons have entered or been involved in an E-Trace." *See* Opp. at 12-14. ATF was not aware that plaintiff was challenging the adequacy of this search and thus did not provide a description of the search in its opening papers. ATF was under the impression that there was only one issue to be addressed on the parties' cross-motions: whether FOIA required ATF to release the firearm trace records or data derived therefrom responsive to the third category in plaintiff's FOIA request. *See* Mem. at 6. Accordingly, ATF did not provide a description of its search for such communications with

³ A search of the database is also not necessary to determine whether there are potentially responsive records at issue. There is no dispute that the Firearm Trace System database contains records of firearm traces going back to "former law enforcement ownership," which are the records plaintiff seeks.

⁴ Plaintiff also asserts that ATF "did not search the ATF database because the process is too laborious." Opp. at 13 (citation omitted). That is not correct. Charles J. Houser, Chief of the ATF's National Tracing Center Division, explained in his declaration that conducting appropriate searches in order to conduct the statistical analysis that plaintiff seeks "would not be an automatic process, but would require an ATF employee to exercise judgment in selecting the search criteria and further work to refine the results." Houser Decl. at ¶ 25. Mr. Houser further explained that "compelling ATF to run searches on the Firearms Trace System database in order to produce aggregate statistical data sought by FOIA requestors would impose an additional and significant burden on the agency and would divert resources currently used to prepare and publish reports of statistical data." *Id.* at ¶ 25.

its opening brief. Charles J. Houser, Chief of ATF's National Tracing Center ("NTC"), has provided a supplemental declaration that describes the search conducted by ATF. *See* 2d Houser Decl. at ¶¶ 9-16. As Mr. Houser explains, he instructed all of NTC's employees, including the Firearms Services Section, which would have been responsible for communications with law enforcement, to search for responsive communications. *See id.* at ¶ 14. Mr. Houser also explains that such communications "typically occur by telephone," which explains why the search did not reveal any responsive documents for release. *Id.* at ¶ 16. In sum, ATF conducted reasonable searches, and the Court should grant judgment in ATF's favor on the search claims.

C. ATF has not previously produced the contents of the Firearms Trace System database to plaintiff.

Plaintiff's argument that ATF has "officially acknowledged" the requested data is incorrect. *See* Opp. at 24. "To be officially acknowledged," ... the information requested must (1) be as specific as the information previously released, (2) "match" the information previously disclosed, and (3) have been made public through an official and documented disclosure." *Electronic Frontier Foundation v.*National Security Agency, No. 14-cv-03010-RS, 2016 WL 1059389, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2016) (citing Fitzgibbon v. C.I.A., 911 F.2d 755, 765 (D.C. Cir. 1990)). ATF has not previously released data from the Firearm Trace System database identifying the number of weapons traced to prior law enforcement ownership from 2006 to the date of plaintiff's FOIA request. *See* 2d Houser Decl. at ¶ 18. Thus, there is no prior disclosure that is as specific as or matches the information sought by plaintiff. Moreover, the Violent Crime Analysis Branch is responsible for the official disclosures of statistical reports by ATF, and the Branch has not produced a report on traces involving prior law enforcement ownership. *See id.* at ¶ 19. Accordingly, there is no official public acknowledgment of the data in question such that an exemption from disclosure can no longer be claimed. *See Electronic Frontier Foundation*, No. 2016 WL 1059389, at *2.

CONCLUSION For the reasons set forth above and those in defendant's opening papers, defendant respectfully requests that the Court grant summary judgment in its favor. Dated: June 7, 2018 Respectfully submitted, ALEX G. TSE Acting United States Attorney /s/ Robin M. Wall ROBIN M. WALL Assistant United States Attorney Attorneys for Defendant U.S. Department of Justice

DEF.'S REPLY ISO MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT 3:17-CV-06557 JSC 14

EXHIBIT D

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

RON PETERSON FIREARMS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

V.

CIVIL NO. 11-678 JC/LFG

B. TODD JONES, ACTING DIRECTOR BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES

Defendant.

DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF FILING OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Defendant B. Todd Jones, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), hereby files a certified copy of the Administrative Record in this case. The documents in the Administrative Record are numbered ATF AR 0001 – 0779. Attached hereto are the Certification and Index of the Administrative Record.

Dated: February 27, 2012 Respectfully submitted,

TONY WEST Assistant Attorney General

KENNETH J. GONZALES United States Attorney

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/s/ Lesley Farby
SANDRA SCHRAIBMAN

SANDRA SCHRAIBMAN Assistant Director

DANIEL RIESS LESLEY FARBY Trial Attorneys U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, Rm.7220 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20530 Telephone: (202) 514-3481

Fax: (202) 616-8470 Email: Lesley.Farby@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 27, 2012, I caused the foregoing document to be served via electronic case filing.

/s/ Lesley Farby Lesley Farby From:

Houser, Charles J.

Sent:

Monday, November 15, 2010 2:06 PM

To:

Herbert, Arthur W.

Subject:

FFL_TRACE_SUMMARY_nodups.xls

Attachments:

FFL_TRACE_SUMMARY_nodups.xis

Sir: Additional information

This spreadsheet has all duplicates removed throughout and in now for the time frame of FY-2008 through FY-2010 This spreadsheet contains the original queries (w/o dupes)

Now there are additional worksheets

- Just the breakout of FFL for Rifles>22 cal recovered in Mex (no dupes)
- Then we have the same query (FFL for Rifles>22cal recovered in Mex, no dupes) where TTC <= 3 yrs total and by FY
- Then we have the same again where TCC<=1 yr total and by FY

For FY2008 to FY2010

All duplicates removed

Rei	tail Final Dispo	sition US dealers in FLS			
US	Recovered		MEXICO RECOVERE	D TRACES	
COUNT(*)	FCNT		COUNT(*)	FCNT	
· ·	LS have	1836 TRACES	1 FFLS hav	e 214 TRACE	S
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1 FFLS have	439 TRACES	6 FFLS have	17 TRACES
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1 FFLS have	432 TRACES	9 FFLS have	21 TRACES
1 FFLS have	430 TRACES	9 FFLS have	18 TRACES
1 FFLS have	428 TRACES	9 FFLS have	16 TRACES
1 FFLS have	423 TRACES	10 FFLS have	22 TRACES
1 FFLS have	420 TRACES	10 FFLS have	20 TRACES
1 FFLS have	418 TRACES	11 FFLS have	19 TRACES
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1 FFLS have	386 TRACES	55 FFLS have	8 TRACES
1 FFLS have	385 TRACES	84 FFLS have	7 TRACES
1 FFLS have	381 TRACES	96 FFLS have	6 TRACES
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3 FFLS have	117 TRACES
4 FFLS have	230 TRACES
4 FFLS have	191 TRACES
4 FFLS have	168 TRACES
4 FFLS have	161 TRACES
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4 FFLS have	123 TRACES
4 FFLS have	118 TRACES
4 FFLS have	114 TRACES
4 FFLS have	111 TRACES
4 FFLS have	109 TRACES
5 FFL\$ have	200 TRACES
5 FFLS have	187 TRACES
5 FFLS have	155 TRACES
5 FFLS have	154 TRACES
5 FFLS have	135 TRACES
5 FFLS have	126 TRACES
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5 FFLS have	99 TRACES
5 FFLS have	93 TRACES
6 FFLS have	208 TRACES
6 FFLS have	195 TRACES
6 FFLS have	181 TRACES
6 FFLS have	121 TRACES
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13 FFLS have	81 TRACES
13 FFLS have	67 TRACES
14 FFLS have	77 TRACES
14 FFLS have	71 TRACES
15 FFLS have	82 TRACES
16 FFLS have	79 TRACES
18 FFLS have	66 TRACES
18 FFLS have	65 TRACES
18 FFLS have	56 TRACES
19 FFLS have	78 TRACES
19 FFLS have	69 TRACES
19 FFLS have	64 TRACES
20 FFLS have	72 TRACES
21 FFLS have	75 TRACES
21 FFLS have	54 TRACES
22 FFLS have	80 TRACES
22 FFLS have	74 TRACES
22 FFLS have	62 TRACES
22 FFLS have	61 TRACES
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23 FFLS have	63 TRACES
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24 FFLS have	51 TRACES
24 FFLS have	46 TRACES
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34 FFLS have	53 TRACES
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36 FFLS have	49 TRACES
38 FFLS have	42 TRACES
39 FFLS have	43 TRACES
41 FFLS have	45 TRACES
45 FFLS have	40 TRACES
48 FFLS have	44 TRACES
49 FFLS have	39 TRACES
51 FFLS have	41 TRACES
51 FFLS have	37 TRACES
53 FFLS have	48 TRACES
58 FFLS have	38 TRACES
59 FfLS have	36 TRACES
64 FFLS have	35 TRACES
71 FFLS have	34 TRACES
72 FFLS have	33 TRACES
74 FFLS have	31 TRACES
82 FFLS have	32 TRACES
83 FFLS have	30 TRACES
94 FFLS have	29 TRACES
102 FFLS have	27 TRACES
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161 FFLS have	22 TRACES 21 TRACES
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194 FFLS have	20 TRACES
212 FFLS have	18 TRACES
214 FFLS have	19 TRACES
256 FFLS have	17 TRACES
273 FFLS have	16 TRACES
332 FFLS have	15 TRACES
367 FFLS have	14 TRACES
413 FFLS have	13 TRACES
494 FFLS have	12 TRACES
603 FFLS have	11 TRACES
685 FFLS have	10 TRACES
826 FFLS have	9 TRACES
1064 FFLS have	8 TRACES
1322 FFLS have	7 TRACES
1742 FFLS have	6 TRACES
2362 FFLS have	5 TRACES
3370 FFLS have	4 TRACES
5219 FFLS have	3 TRACES
9908 FFLS have	2 TRACES
32421 FFLS have	1 TRACES

Weapons Type Rifle and Shotgun		•	Weapons Type Rifle and Shotgun		
US Recovered		MEXICO RECOVERED TRACES			
COUNT(*)	FCNT	COUNT(*) FCNT			
1 FFLS have	413 TRACES	1 FFLS have	170 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	407 TRACES	1 FFLS have	146 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	285 TRACES	1 FFLS have	143 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	270 TRACES	1 FFLS have	103 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	261 TRACES	1 FFLS have	83 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	68 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	65 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	64 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	206 TRACES	1 FFLS have	60 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	200 TRACES	1 FFLS have	56 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	188 TRACES	1 FFLS have	55 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	185 TRACES	1 FFLS have	51 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	183 TRACES	1 FFLS have	49 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	182 TRACES	1 FFLS have	43 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	178 TRACES	1 FFLS have	41 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	169 TRACES	1 FFLS have	40 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	165 TRACES	1 FFLS have	39 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	156 TRACES	1 FFLS have	37 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	154 TRACES	1 FFLS have	36 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	151 TRACES	1 FFLS have	32 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	144 TRACES	1 FFLS have	31 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	132 TRACES	1 FFLS have	29 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	127 TRACES	1 FFLS have	24 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	118 TRACES	1 FFLS have	23 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	· 116 TRACES	1 FFLS have	22 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	112 TRACES	2 FFLS have	66 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	108 TRACES	2 FFLS have	35 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	107 TRACES	2 FFLS have	27 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	103 TRACES	2 FFLS have	26 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	102 TRACES	3 FFLS have	34 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		3 FFLS have	25 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	99 TRACES	3 FFLS have	21 TRACES		
1 FFLS have	91 TRACES	4 FFLS have	19 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		. 4 FFLS have	17 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		4 FFLS have	15 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		5 FFLS have	20 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		5 FFLS have	12 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		7 FFLS have	13 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		8 FFLS have	18 TRACES		
1 FFLS hav		8 FFLS have	16 TRACES		
1 FFLS hav		8 FFLS have	14 TRACES		
1 FFLS hav		13 FFLS have	11 TRACES		
2 FFLS hav		17 FFLS have	10 TRACES		
2 FFLS hav		22 FFLS have	9 TRACES		
2 FFLS hav		26 FFLS have	8 TRACES		
2 FFLS hav		40 FFLS have	7 TRACES		
2 FFLS hav		55 FFLS have	6 TRACES		

		• •	
2 FFLS have	95 TRACES	65 FFLS have	5 TRACES
2 FFLS have	92 TRACES	120 FFLS have	4 TRACES
2 FFLS have	88 TRACES	225 FFLS have	3 TRACES
2 FFLS have	87 TRACES	600 FFLS have	2 TRACES
2 FFLS have	85 TRACES	2999 FFLS have	1 TRACES
2 FFLS have	83 TRACES		
2 FFLS have	78 TRACES		
2 FFLS have	75 TRACES		
2 FFLS have	74 TRACES		
2 FFLS have	72 TRACES		
2 FFLS have	71 TRACES		
3 FFLS have	76 TRACES	•	
3 FFLS have	65 TRACES		
3 FFLS have	62 TRACES	-	
3 FFLS have	61 TRACES		
3 FFLS have	55 TRACES		•
3 FFLS have	52 TRACES	•	
4 FFLS have	67 TRACES		
4 FFLS have	64 TRACES		
4 FFLS have	53 TRACES		
4 FFLS have	51 TRACES		
4 FFLS have	50 TRACES	•	
5 FFLS have	69 TRACES		
5 FFLS have	63 TRACES		
5 FFLS have	57 TRACES		
6 FFLS have	58 TRACES		
6 FFLS have	54 TRACES		
7 FFLS have	48 TRACES		
7 FFLS have	44 TRACES		
8 FFLS have	s 56 Traces		
8 FFLS have	e 46 TRACES		
8 FFLS have	41 TRACES		
9 FFLS have	e 49 TRACES		
9 FFLS have	e · 43 TRACES		
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29 FFLS hav			
30 FFLS hav	e 33 TRACES		•

40	FFLS have	25	TRACES
40	FFL5 have	24	TRACES
45	FFLS have	23	TRACES
55	FFLS have	21	TRACE5
56	FFLS have	22	TRACES
78	FFLS have	20	TRACES
80	FFLS have	18	TRACES
89	FFLS have	19	TRACES
102	FFLS have	17	TRACES
102	FFLS have	16	TRACES
146	FFLS have	14	TRACES
153	FFLS have	15	TRACES
182	FFLS have	13	TRACES
221	FFLS have .	12	TRACES
249	FFLS have	11	TRACES
291	FFLS have	10	TRACES
413	FFLS have	9	TRACES
532	FFLS have	8	TRACES
670	FFLS have	7	TRACES
923	FFLS have	6	TRACES
1285	FFLS have	5	TRACES
1850	FFLS have	4	TRACES
2991	FFLS have	3	TRACES
5596	FFLS have	2	TRACES
17120	FFLS have	1	TRACES

Weapons Type Rifle US Recovered		Weapons Type Rifle MEXICO RECOVERED TRACES	
COUNT(*)	FCNT	COUNT(*) FCNT	
1 FFLS have	288 TRACES	1 FFLS have	169 TRACES
1 FFLS have	264 TRACES	1 FFLS have	143 TRACES
1 FFLS have	253 TRACES	1 FFLS have	140 TRACES
1 FFLS have	238 TRACES	1 FFLS have	103 TRACES
1 FFLS have	160 TRACES	· 1 FFLS have	77 TRACES
1 FFLS have	154 TRACES	1 FFLS have	68 TRACES
1 FFLS have	150 TRACES	1 FFLS have	66 TRACES
1 FFLS have	140 TRACES	1 FFLS have	64 TRACES
1 FFLS have	131 TRACES	1 FFLS have	63 TRACES
1 FFLS have	127 TRACES	1 FFLS have	55 TRACES
1 FFLS have	124 TRACES	1 FFLS have	49 TRACES
1 FFLS have	113 TRACES	1 FFLS have	46 TRACES
1 FFLS have	104 TRACES	1 FFLS have	43 TRACES
1 FFLS have	95 TRACES	1 FFLS have	40 TRACES
1 FFLS have	90 TRACES	1 FFLS have	37 TRACES
1 FFLS have	79 TRACES	1 FFLS have	36 TRACES
1 FFLS have	75 TRACES	1 FFLS have	35 TRACES
. 1 FFLS have	73 TRACES	1 FFLS have	34 TRACES
1 FFLS have	70 TRACES	1 FFLS have	31 TRACES
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	26 TRACES
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	25 TRACES
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	24 TRACES
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	23 TRACES
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	22 TRACES
1 FFLS have		· 1 FFLS have	19 TRACES
1 FFL\$ have		2 FFLS have	51 TRACES
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	39 TRACES
2 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	29 TRACES
2 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	28 TRACES
2 FFLS have	•	2 FFLS have	21 TRACES
2 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	13 TRACES
2 FFLS have		3 FFLS have	20 TRAÇES
2 FFLS have	e 66 TRACES	3 FFLS have	16 TRACES
2 FFLS have		4 FFLS have	27 TRACES
2 FFLS have	43 TRACES	5 FFLS have	17 TRACES
2 FFLS have	38 TRACES	6 FFLS have	15 TRACES
3 FFLS have	56 TRACES	6 FFLS have	14 TRACES
3 FFLS have	e 52 TRACES	6 FFLS have	12 TRACES
3 FFLS have	e 42 TRACES	7 FFLS have	18 TRACES
3 FFLS have	e 41 TRACES	8 FFLS have	9 TRACES
. 3 FFLS have	e 40 TRACES	10 FFLS have	11 TRACES
3 FFLS have	e 39 TRACES	19 FFLS have	10 TRACES
4 FFLS have	e 55 TRACES	27 FFLS have	8 TRACES
4 FFLS have	e 45 TRACES	27 FFLS have	7 TRACES
4 FFLS have	e 33 TRACES	46 FFLS have	6 TRACES
5 FFLS have	e 48 TRACES	. 51 FFLS have	5 TRACES
. 5 FFLS have	e 44 TRACES	105 FFLS have	4 TRACES

	5 FFLS have	37 TRACES	183 FFLS have	3 TRACES
	5 FFLS have	. 32 TRACES	480 FFLS have	2 TRACES
	8 FFLS have	46 TRACES	2540 FFLS have	1 TRACES
	8 FFLS have	36 TRACES		1824
	8 FFL5 have	35 TRACES		
	8 FFLS have	34 TRACES		
	9 FFLS have	31 TRACES		
	9 FFLS have	30 TRACES	•	
	10 FFLS have	29 TRACES		
	10 FFLS have	27 TRACES		
	13 FFLS have	28 TRACES		
	17 FFLS have	25 TRACES		
	18 FFLS have	26 TRACES		
	19 FFLS have	22 TRACES		
	19 FFLS have	21 TRACES		
	23 FFLS have	24 TRACES		
	27 FFLS have	23 TRACES		
	28 FFLS have	19 TRACES		
	29 FFLS have	20 TRACES		
	36 FFLS have	18 TRACES		
	49 FFLS have	17 TRACES		. •
	51 FFLS have	16 TRACES		
	55 FFLS have	15 TRACES		
	81 FFLS have	14 TRACES		
	94 FFLS have	13 TRACES		•
	107 FFLS have	12 TRACES		-
	110 FFLS have	11 TRACES		
	156 FFLS have	10 TRACES		
	194 FFLS have	9 TRACES		
	260 FFLS have	8 TRACES		
	367 FFLS have	7 TRACES		
	542 FFLS have	6 TRACES	•	
	787 FFLS have	'5 TRACES	•	
	1217 FFLS have	4 TRACES	•	
	2037 FFLS have	3 TRACES		
	4270 FFLS have	2 TRACES	•	•
1	.4085 FFLS have	1 TRACES		
		5065		

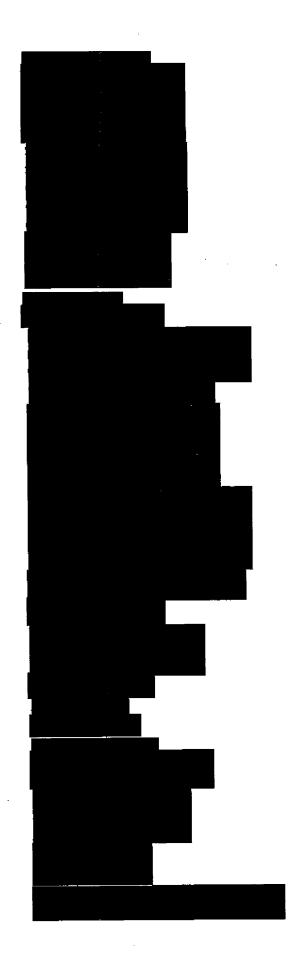
Weapons Type Rifle w	rith Caliber > 22	Weapons Type Rifle w			
US Recovered		MEXICO RECOVERED	MEXICO RECOVERED TRACES		
COUNT(*)	FCNT	COUNT(*)	FCNT		
1 FFLS have	241 TRACES	1 FFLS have	167 TRACES		167
1 FFLS have	224 TRACES	1 FFLS have	143 TRACES		143 .
1 FFLS have	146 TRACES	1 FFLS have	133 TRACES		133
1 FFL\$ have	126 TRACES	· 1 FFLS have	103 TRACES		103
1 FFLS have	123 TRACES	1 FFLS have	73 TRACES		73
1 FFLS have	114 TRACES	1 FFLS have	· 68 TRACES		68
1 FFLS have	90 TRACES	1 FFLS have	62 TRACES	,	62
1 FFLS have	89 TRACES	1 FFLS have	51 TRACES		51
1 FFLS have	77 TRACES	1 FFLS have	43 TRACES		43
1 FFLS have	76 TRACES	1 FFLS have	40 TRACES		40
1 FFLS have	75 TRACES	1 FFLS have	39 TRACES		39
1 FFLS have	74 TRACES	1 FFLS have	36 TRACES		36
1 FFLS have	73 TRACES	1 FFLS have	29 TRACES		29
1 FFLS have	70 TRACES	· 1 FFLS have	28 TRACES		28
1 FFLS have	64 TRACES	1 FFLS have	25 TRACES		25
1 FFLS have	59 TRACES	1 FFLS have	24 TRACES		24
1 FFLS have	57 TRACES	1 FFLS have	23 TRACES		23
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	19 TRACES		. 19
1 FFLS have		1 FFLS have	16 TRACES	٠	16
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	64 TRACES		128
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	37 TRACES	•	74
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	34 TRACES		68
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	· 26 TRACES		52
1 FFLS have		2 FFLS have	21 TRACES		
1 FFLS have		2 FPLS have	13 TRACES		42 26
2 FFLS have	•	3 FFLS have			26 co
2 FFLS have		4 FFLS have	•		60
2 FFLS have		4 FFLS have			108
			17 TRACES		68
2 FFLS have		4 FFLS have			56
3 FFL\$ have		4 FFLS have			48
4 FFLS have		5 FFLS have			90
4 FFLS have		5 FFLS have	9 TRACES	•	45
4 FFLS have		6 FFLS have			90
5 FFLS have		8 FFLS have			88
5 FFLS have		12 FFLS have			120
5 FFLS have		16 FFLS have			128
5 FFLS have		16 FFLS have			112
6 FFLS have	-	31 FFLS have			186
6 FFLS have		37 FFLS have			185
6 FFLS have		57 FFLS have			228
6 FFLS have		111 FFLS have			333
7 FFLS have		289 FFLS have			578
8 FFLS have		1761 FFLS have			1761
8 FFLS have	e 27 TRACES		1506	0	5796
9 FFLS have	26 TRACES				
9 FFLS have					
9 FFLS have	22 TRACES				

13	FFLS have	23 TRACES
15	FFLS have	21 TRACES
16	FFLS have	19 TRACES
19	FFLS have	20 TRACES
20	FFLS have	18 TRACES
21	FFLS have	15 TRACES
22	FFL\$ have	17 TRACES
24	FFLS have	16 TRACES
46	FFLS have	14 TRACES
50	FFLS have	13 TRACES
54	FFLS have	12 TRACES
68	FFLS have	11 TRACES
79	FFLS have	10 TRACES
93	FFLS have	9 TRACES
1 56	FFLS have	8 TRACES
167	FFLS have	7 TRACES
259	FFLS have	6 TRACES
394	FFLS have	5 TRACES
606	FFLS have	4 TRACES
1209	FFLS have	3 TRACES
2822	FFLS have	2 TRACES
10865	FFLS have	1 TRACES
		3208

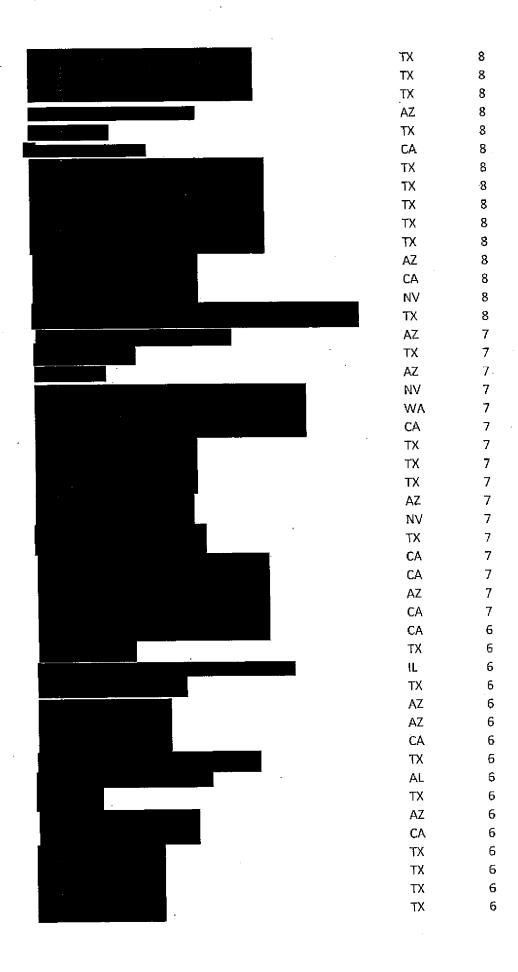
RECOVERY MM, Caliber > 22 Retail FFI's

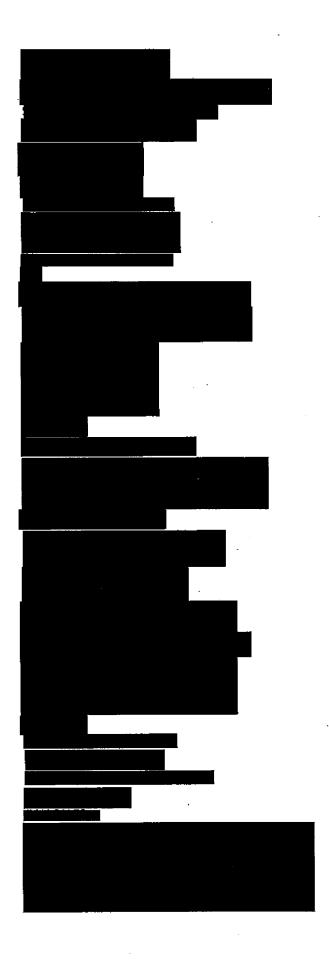
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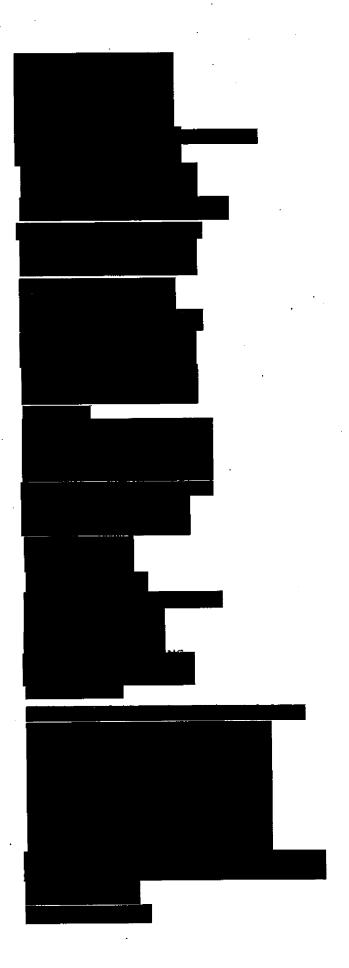


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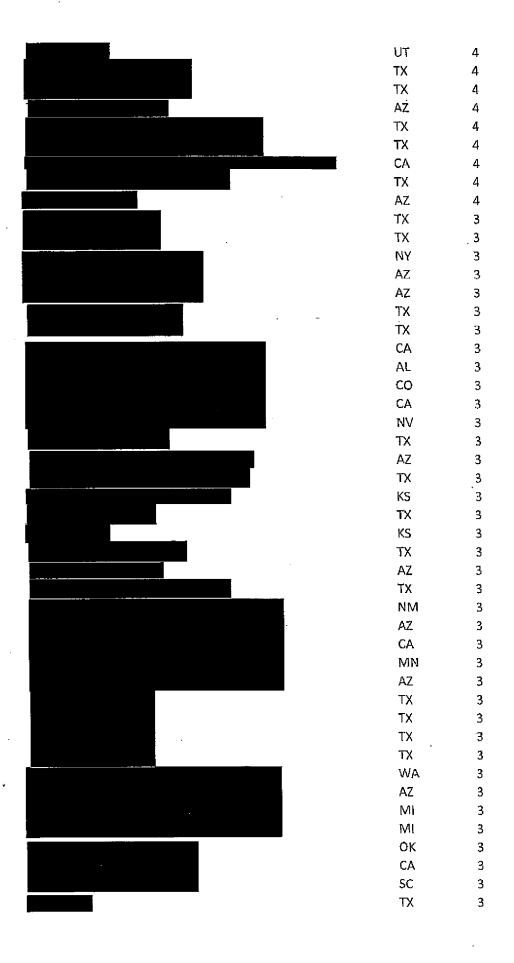


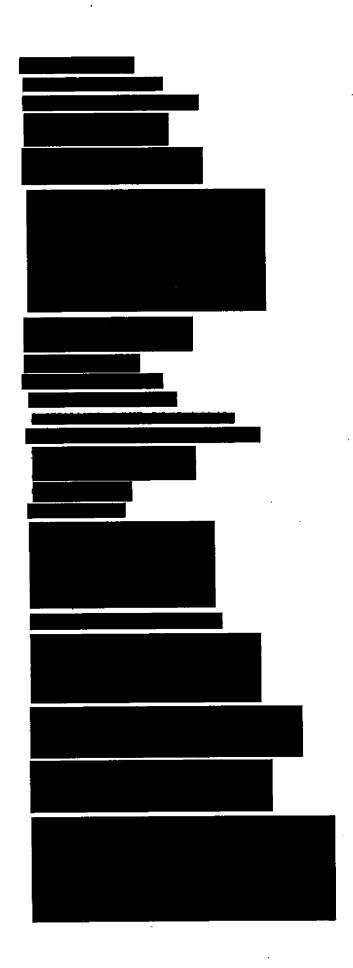


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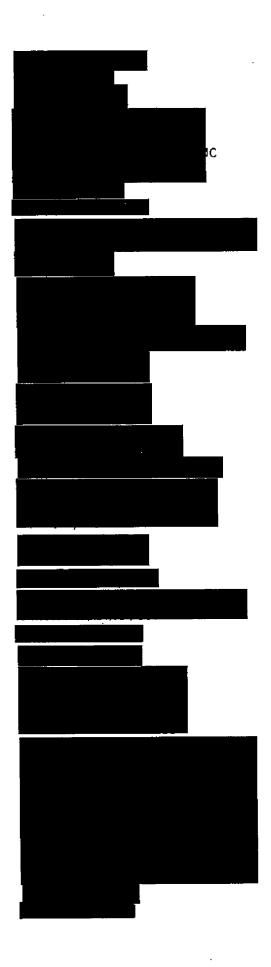


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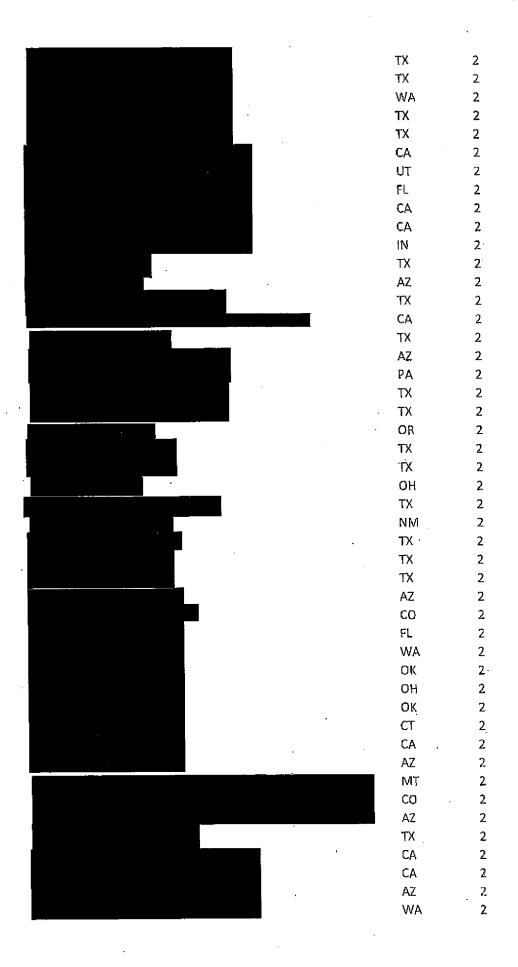


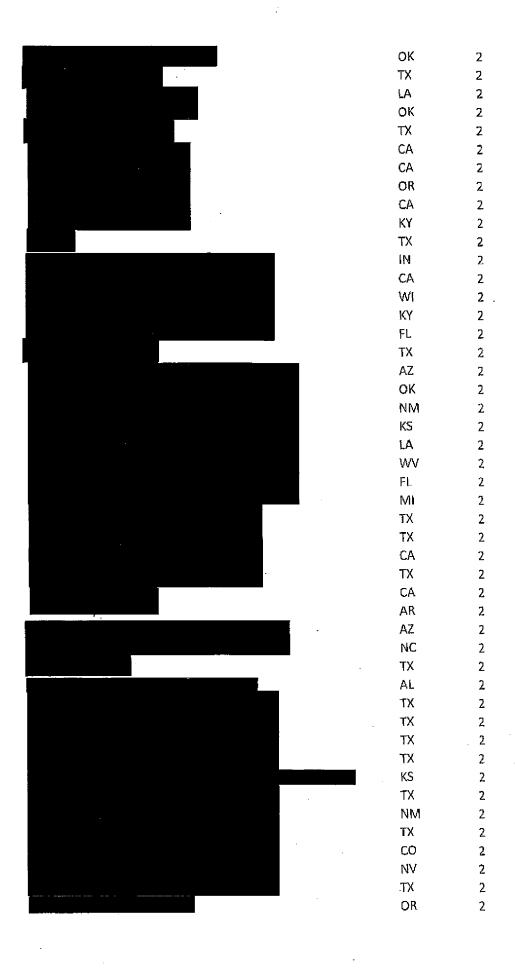


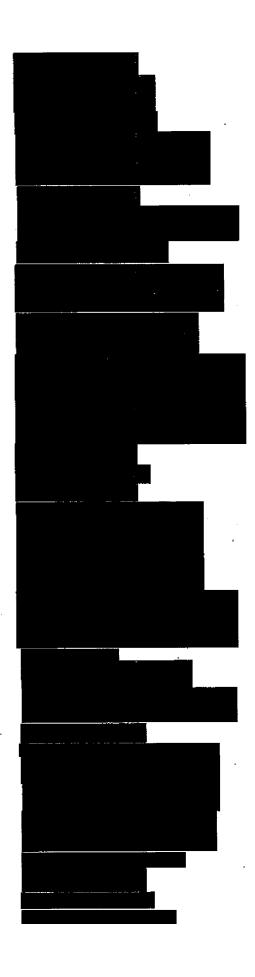
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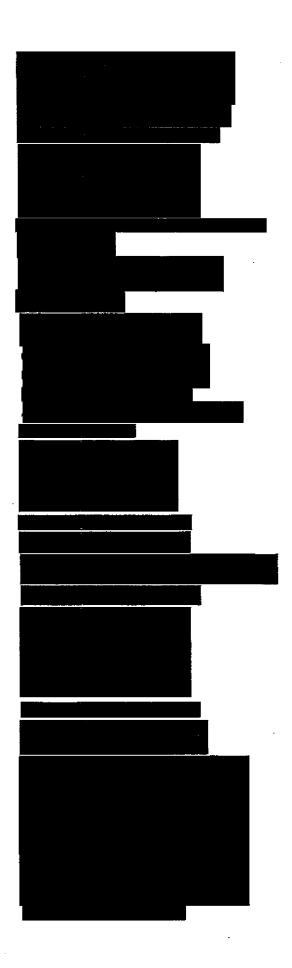
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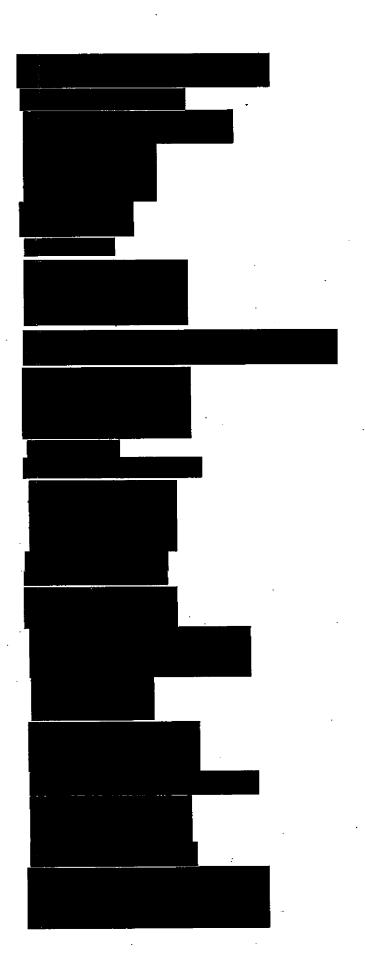




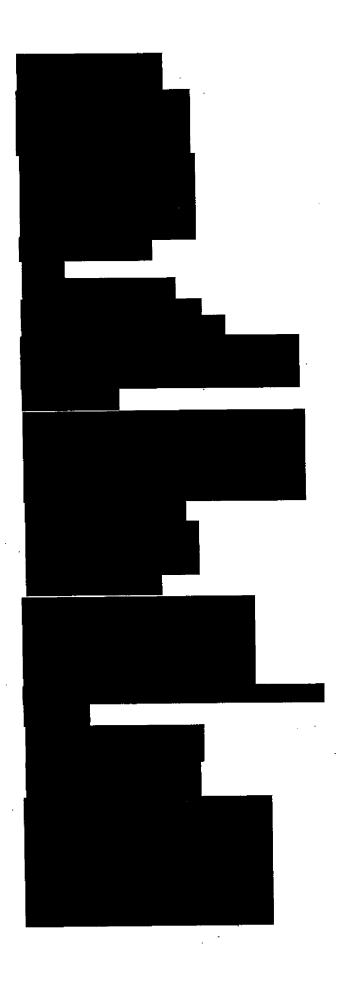
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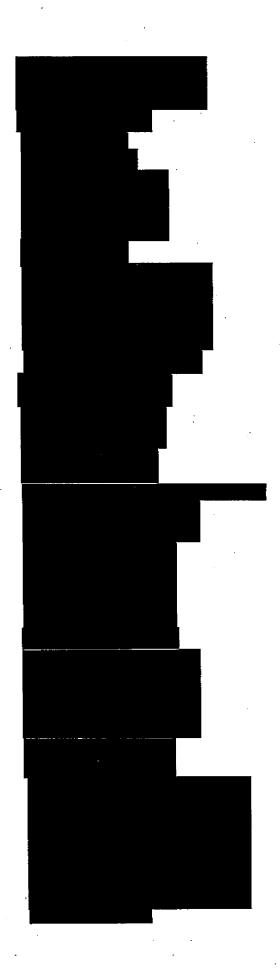
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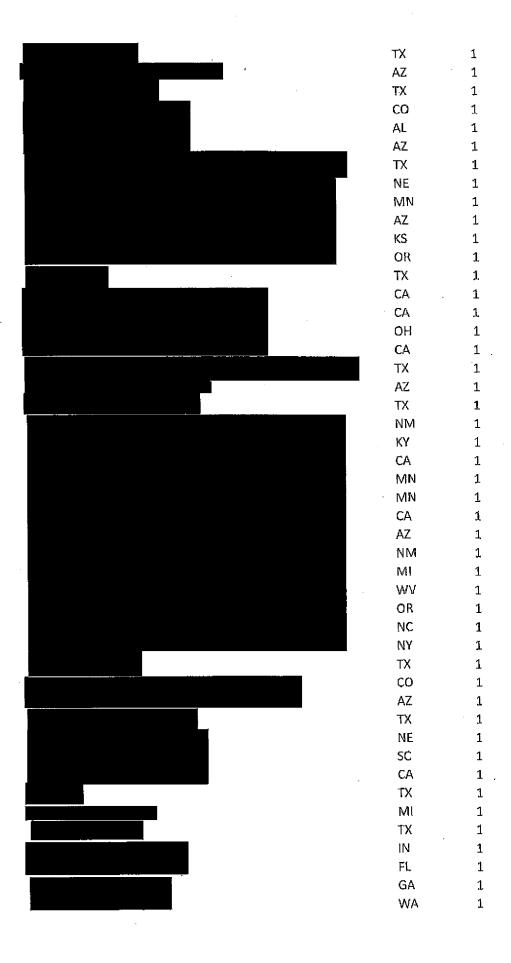
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CO	2
GA	2
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ΤX	2
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OH	2
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FL	2
CA	2
ΑZ	2
ΤX	2
ΤX	2 2
TN	2
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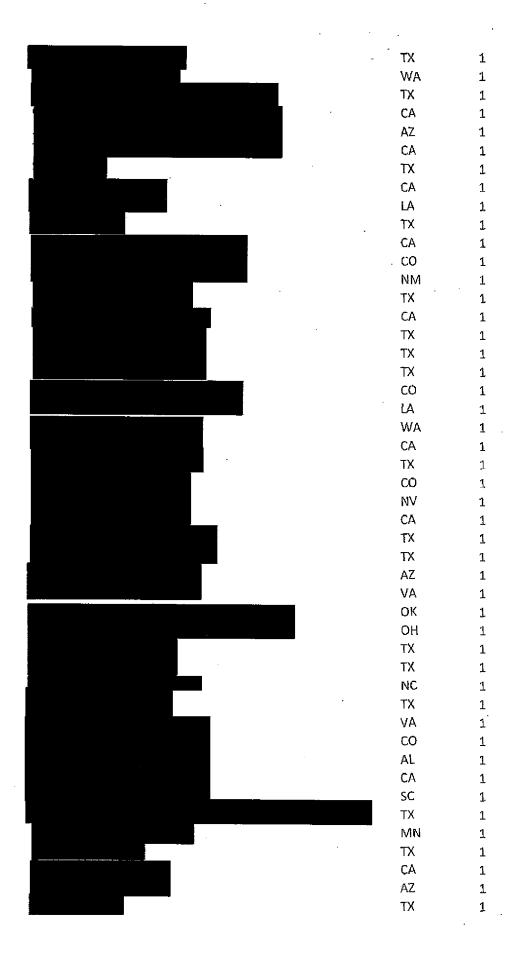


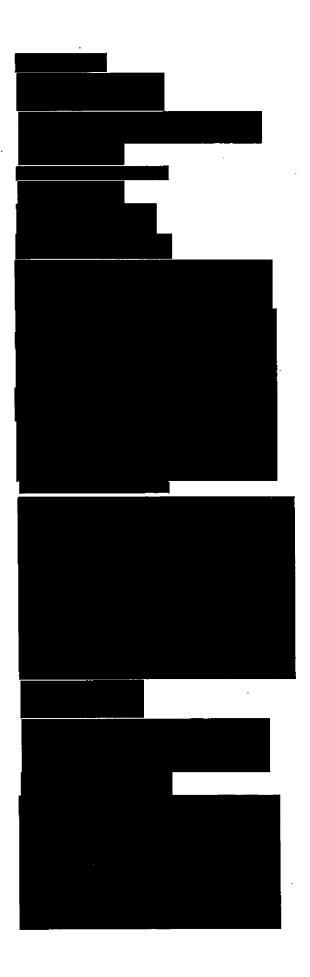
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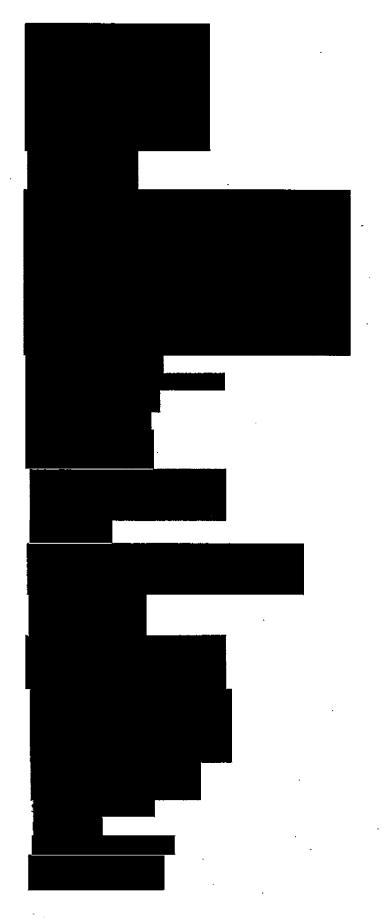
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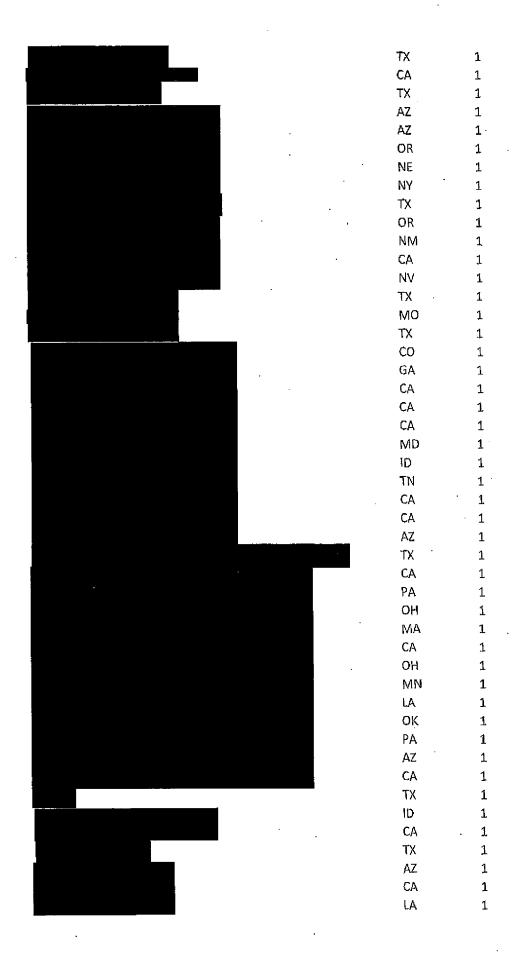


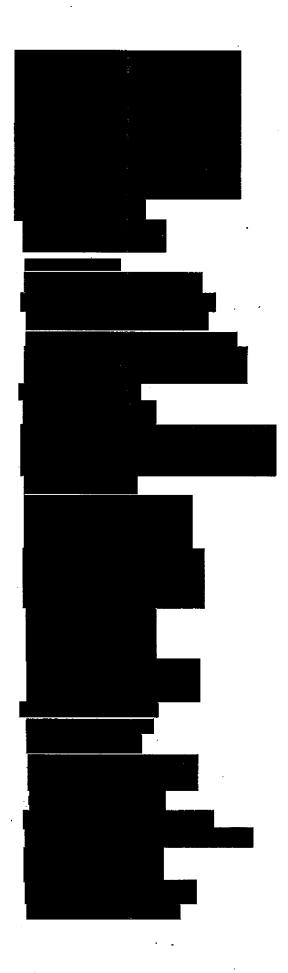


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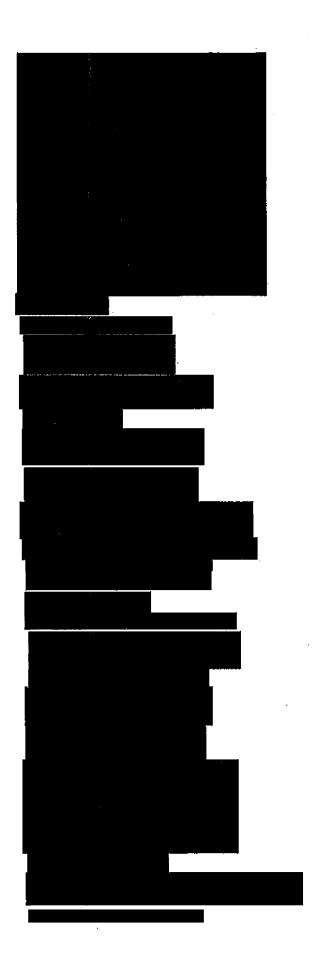


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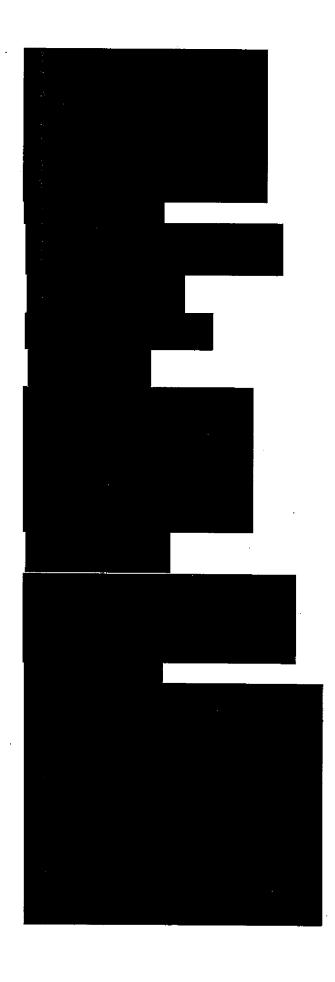




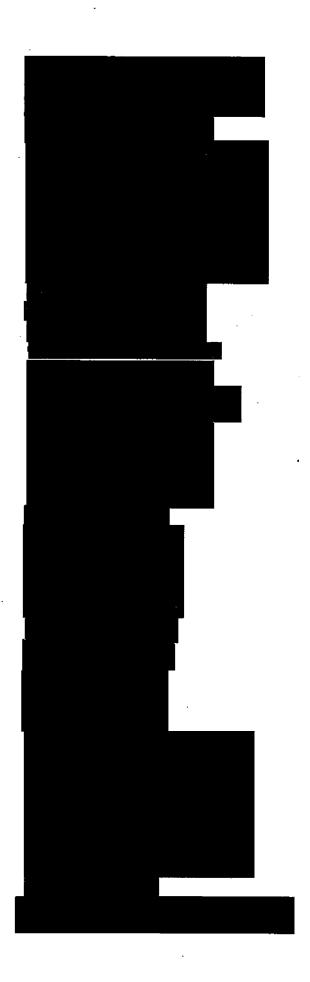
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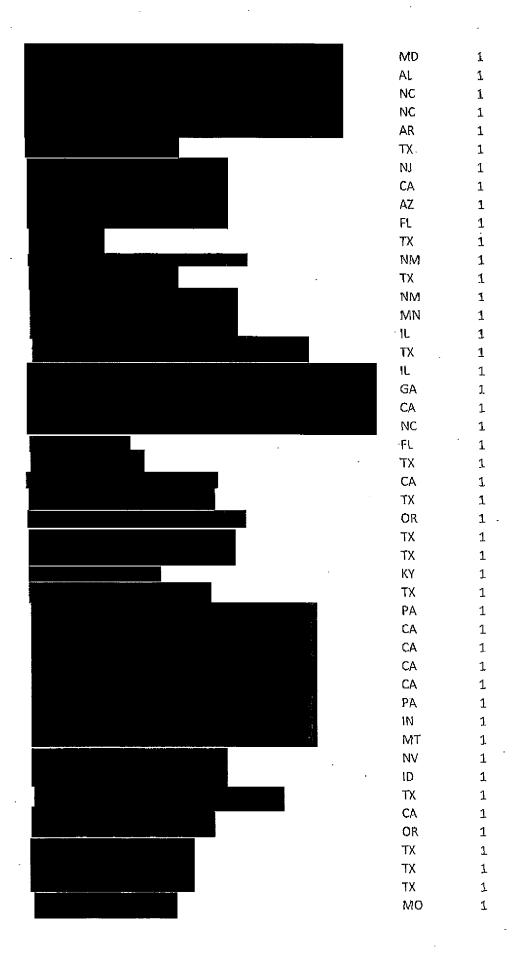


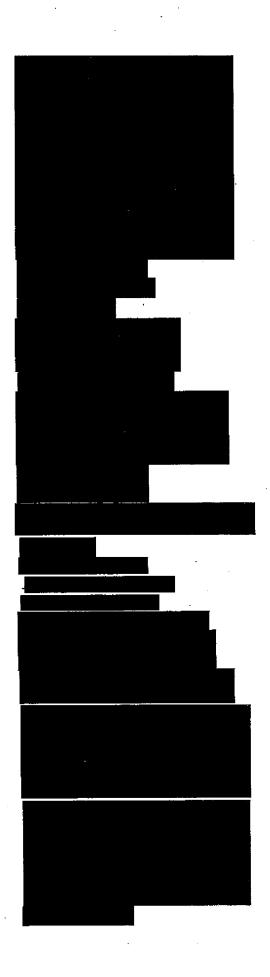
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SC	1
lN	1
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ΤX	1
NM	1
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NM	1
CA	1
SD	1
IA	1
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TX	1.
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OR	1
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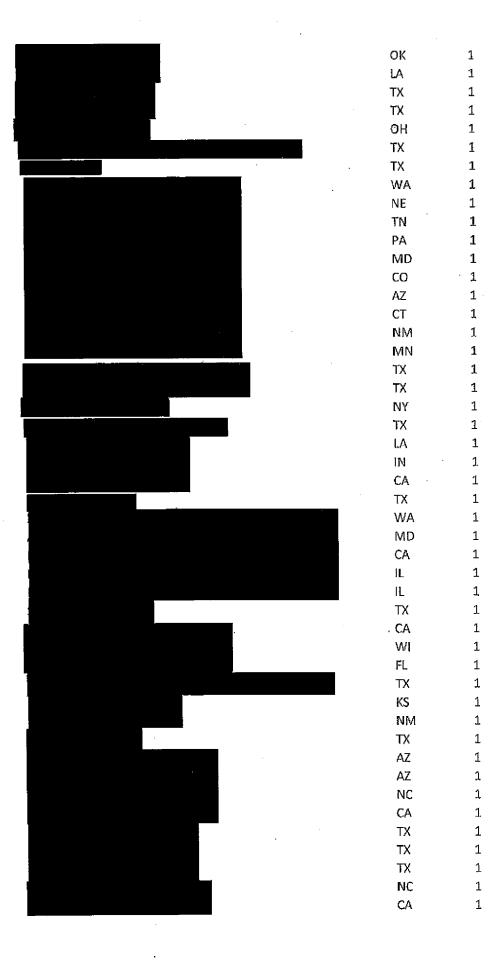
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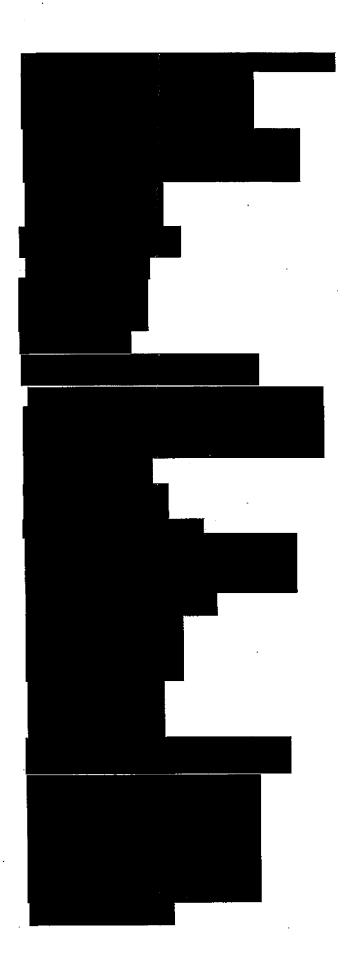
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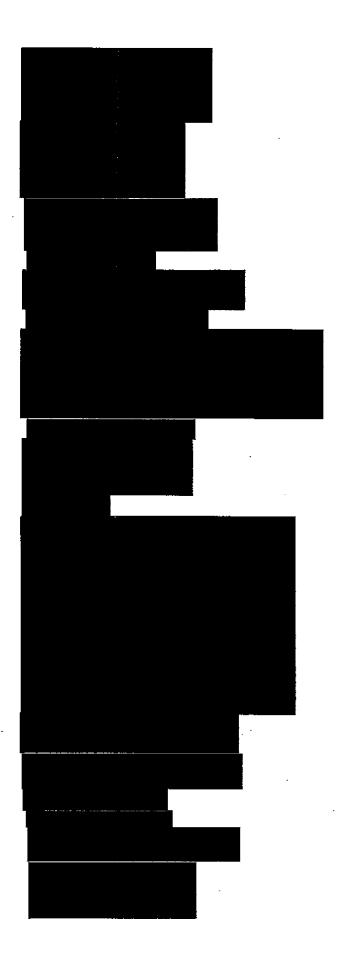


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TX		1
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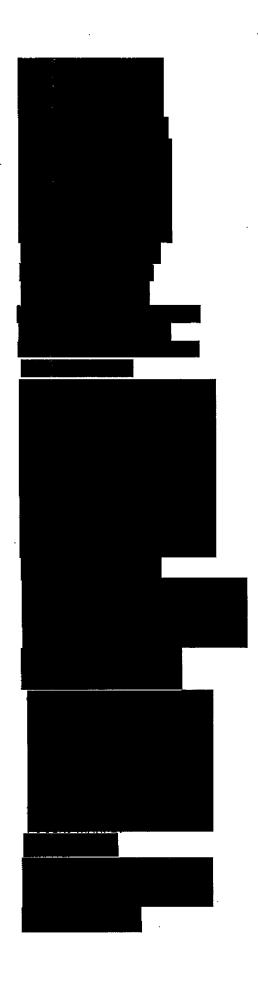




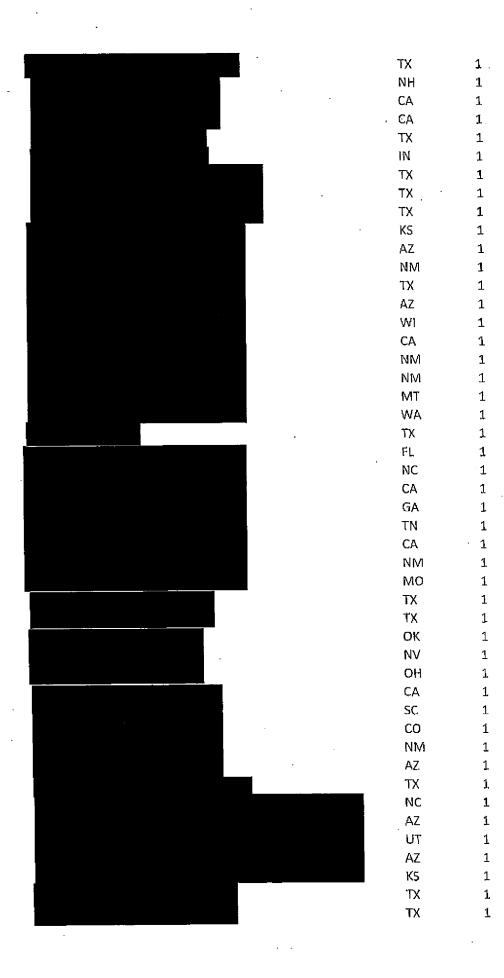
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CO		1
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ΤX		1
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ME		1
NY		1
CA		1
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WV		1
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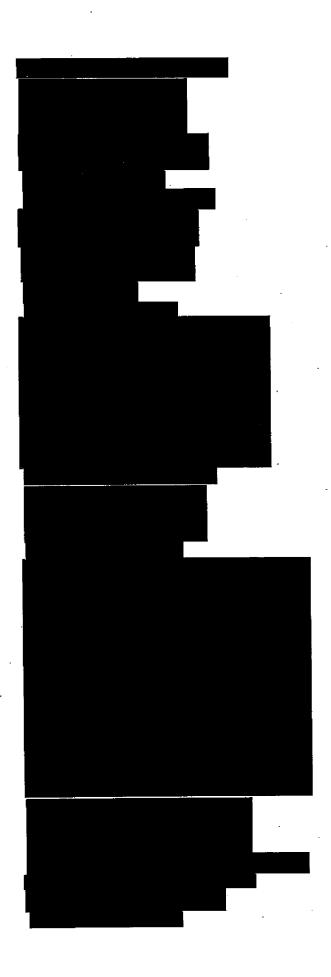


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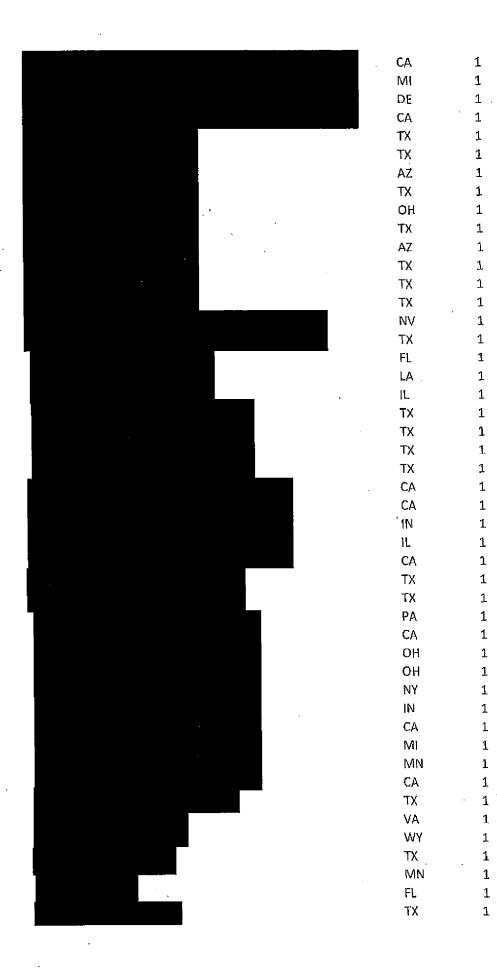


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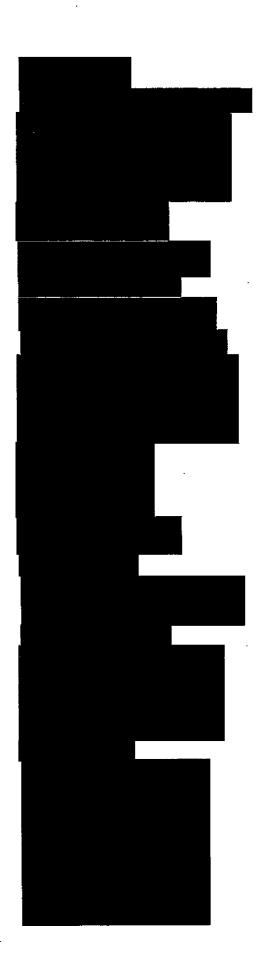


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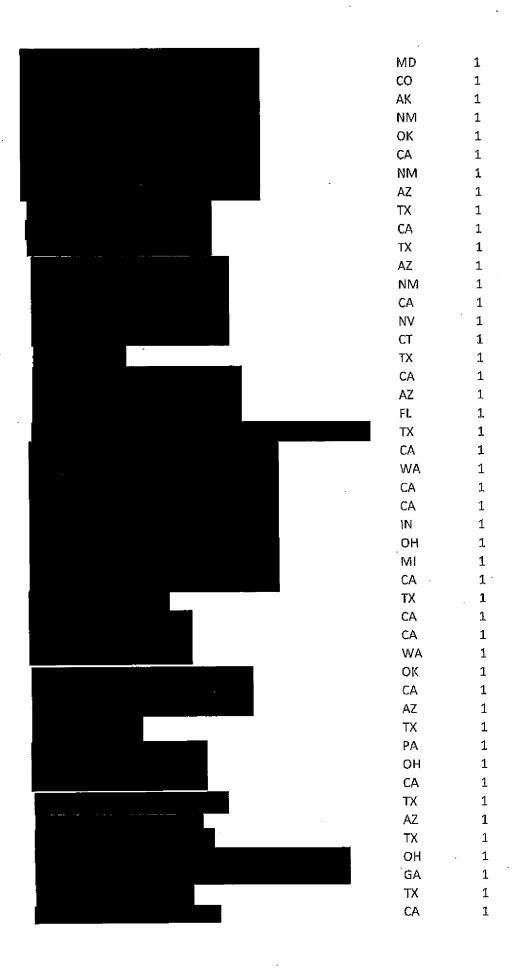


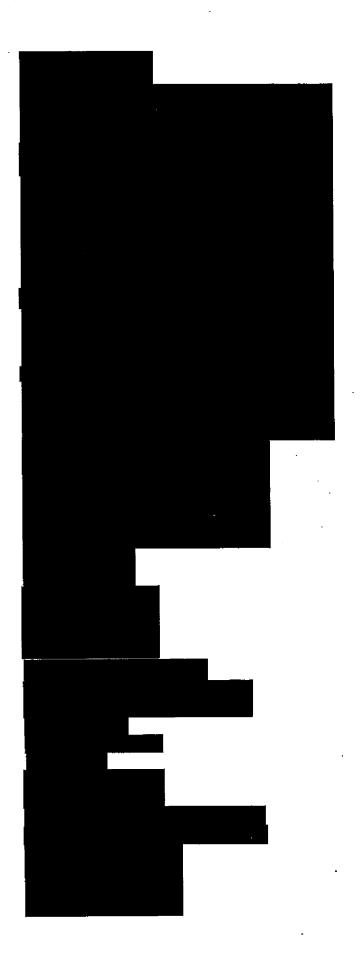


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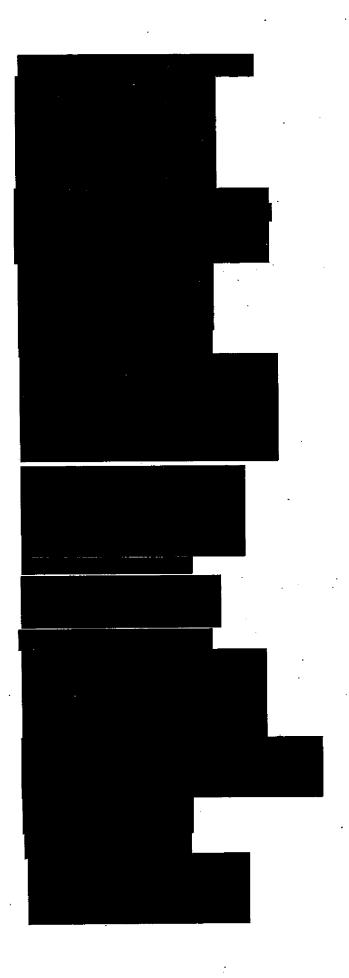


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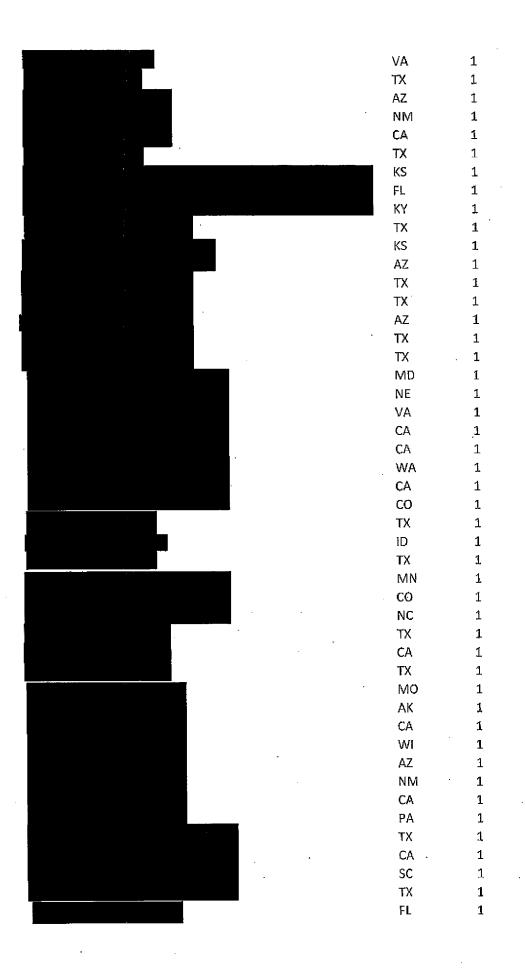


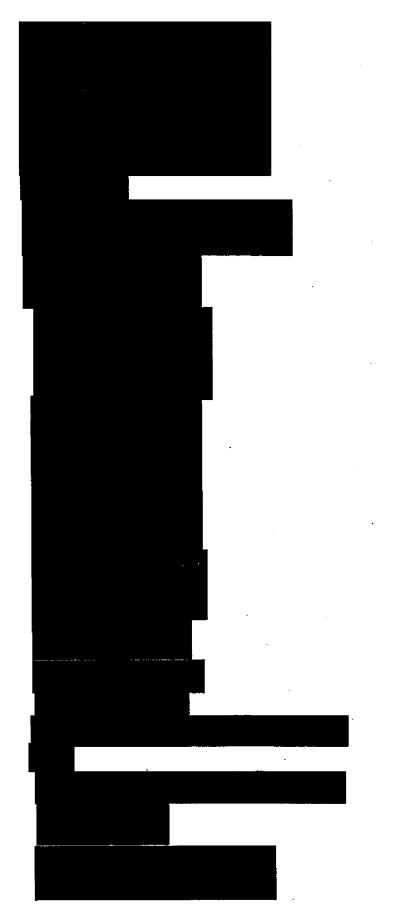


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