

Stop Domestic Terror Campaign
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January 16, 2011

FBI Director Robert Mueller
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Re: Shut Down Groups Funding Candidates And Activities That Use Violent Threats

Dear Director Mueller

On September 20, 2009, we wrote to Attorney General Holder requesting that the DOJ move aggressively against the threat of domestic terrorism. See attached. While some progress has been made in this regard, more is needed. Indeed, there is an area that to date appears to have been off limits from law enforcement – an investigation into groups that are providing large-scale funding/support of candidates (and their ads) who employ violent imagery, rhetoric, threats and metaphors, and the correlation to actual violence against targeted politicians and candidates. Specifically, we are referring to funding by organizations that are registered, authorized and licensed by the United States to engage in conduct beneficial to society.

Our hearts and thoughts go out to the victims of the massacre in Tucson but, unfortunately, we are not surprised. In fact, our StopDomesticTerror.com campaign has been warning for two years that the incendiary rhetoric coming primarily from right wing radio and TV, and right wing candidates, could push those unstable and on the fringe to resort to violence. We have now reached the place where our predictions have been replaced with an actual mass attack by someone who, though clearly disturbed, appears to have been influenced to act by right wing/paranoid rhetoric and a toxic political atmosphere.

Therefore, we are asking that you use the criminal statutes and administrative rules presently on the books to shut down and prosecute those U.S. registered and licensed organizations that fund and support groups, activities and candidates that engage in calls, either direct or indirect, to use violence against public officials and others. It is shocking that many of these organizations and their principals purport to simply be engaging in the rough and tumble of modern day politics and exercising their First Amendment rights. But as Tucson Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said Saturday: *"Let me just say one thing, because people tend to poo-poo this business about all the vitriol that we hear inflaming the American public by people who make a living off of doing that. That may be free speech, but it's not without consequences."*

During the last election, candidates and their supporters on the right repeatedly used language, imagery and metaphors that evoked violence. Sharon Angle warned that “Second Amendment remedies” were available if voting did not stop the tyranny of Congress. Sarah Palin posted a graphic on her Facebook page and her SarahPac website with gunsight crosshairs over targeted candidates including Gabrielle Giffords. In her March 28, 2010 commentary about the graphic, she said this: *“In the battle, set your sights on next season’s targets! From the shot across the bow – the first second’s tip-off – yourleaders will be in the enemy’s crosshairs, so you must execute strong defensive tactics. You won’t win only playing defense, so get on offense! The crossfire is intense, so penetrate through enemy territory by bombing through the press, and use your strong weapons – your Big Guns – to drive to the hole. Shoot with accuracy; aim high and remember it takes blood, sweat and tears to win.”* She also said, “Don’t retreat! Instead - RELOAD!” Representative Giffords was so concerned about this crosshair threat that she spoke out publicly against it and warned that “words have consequences.”

Michelle Bachman said: *“I want people in Minnesota armed and dangerous on this issue of the energy tax because we need to fight back.”* Glenn Beck warned his viewers of an “impending Reichstag moment and power grab,” which amounted to a call to target our leaders. And the GOP candidate who opposed Gabrielle Giffords, Jesse Kelly, promoted and held an event at a shooting range urging people to “Shoot A Fully Automatic M16” And “Remove Gabrielle Giffords” from office. The list of other similar examples is much too long for this letter, but the eliminationist language of many right wing campaigns and commentators included references to weapons, killing, and violence, and the enemy, which they defined as Democrats, liberals, the government, the judiciary, et al. *See Note 1* for but some of the other candidates who threatened to use violence over the past year.

What is equally shocking is who funded these groups and candidates. The United States Chamber of Commerce spent \$162,000 to support Jesse Kelly in his attacks on Gabrielle Giffords. American Crossroads/Crossroads GPS poured millions of dollars in ads supporting Sarah Palin backed candidates, including Sharon Angle alone with over \$1.5 million. *See Note 2* for a list of SarahPac backed candidates. In fact, Sharon Angle was supported by more than 20 registered organizations with expenditures topping almost \$8 million. *See Note 3* for some of those groups and expenditures. Glenn Beck supported Michelle Bachman with free airtime and raised money for the Chamber of Commerce. *See Note 4* for Chamber expenditures. FOX Chairman Rupert Murdoch helped fund the Chamber’s ad campaigns with a million dollar donation. Other groups authorized by the Internal Revenue Service also provided funding and material support to these groups and candidates that promoted violence against other candidates.

Is the Chamber, Fox News and others running a coordinated threat strategy? Is there a conspiracy to intimidate and cause violence? Clearly, this is something that we cannot answer ourselves. However, the pattern of violence and its connection to these organizations are things that the FBI should look into. Two years ago, we launched this Stop Domestic Terror campaign in collaboration with Frank Schaeffer, a former member of the far right who renounced the right’s tactics after it urged violence. Mr. Schaeffer has written that the right’s campaign of threats and intimidation is a product of “lobbyist

run” groups who have “a small army ... at their beck and call.” He calls them, “American Brown Shirts at the ready.” He names Freedom Works and American For Prosperity for being major supporters of these intimidation tactics.

<http://www.alternet.org/health/141833?page=1> He says that Glenn Beck/Fox News is the mouthpiece for these lobbyists, and Beck’s fans have been linked to many threats <http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2010/11/woman-death-threats-targeted-glenn-beck/> an assassination attempt, <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2010/1016/Did-Glenn-Beck-s-rhetoric-inspire-violence> and outright murders. <http://mediamatters.org/columns/200904070009>

The IRS should not be authorizing or granting tax-exempt status to groups such as SarahPac, the Chamber of Commerce, American Crossroads, Freedom Works and Americans for Prosperity that support and fund extremists who foment violence against fellow Americans and the United States Government under the guise of legitimate political activity. Many of these organizations are registered and operating for the promotion of the “public welfare” or as business leagues yet they are funding candidates that undermine democracy. Moreover, the FCC should not be granting licenses to news and media organizations that allow commentators to call for violence against fellow Americans whether directly or with coded words and commentary.

The DOJ has used criminal prosecutions against those who provide material support to designated foreign terrorist organizations. While Fox News, SarahPac, the Chamber of Commerce and American Crossroads are not *designated* terrorist organizations; they have provided funding and material support for people, candidates and groups that have used language advocating violence against public servants, and violence has occurred as a result. Clearly, these groups should be shuttered, and the principals behind them held accountable for crossing the line that has led to violence.

As the Director of the FBI, you have the obligation to protect our citizens from threats, both foreign and domestic. There is no First Amendment protection for people who provide the funding to others who use the threat of violence against Americans, and there is no right to foment violence against public servants or anyone else.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zeese
Attorney at Law
301-996-6582

Note 1:

Target Practice

Robert Lowry, a Republican challenger to Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schulz (D-FL), stopped by a local Republican event in October. The event was at a gun range, and [Lowry shot at a human-shaped target that had Wasserman Schulz's initials written next to it](#). He later said it was a "mistake."

Wasserman Schulz, who defeated Lowry, remembered that incident on Hardball Monday evening.

"Those kinds of actions, words and statements can lead people who are unbalanced to potentially engage and carry out that violence," she said. "It's out of line and we've got to dial it back."

Machine Gun Social

Dean Allen, a conservative candidate for state office in South Carolina [threw a "machine gun social"](#) in September, drawing 500 people for the chance to win a \$700 AK-47 semiautomatic rifle. All attendees got to shoot 20 rounds from a machine gun of their choice. (He didn't win.)

Armed and Fiscally Responsible

Ben Quayle put out a dramatic primary ad that got a lot of attention, in which he spoke directly into the camera, "[Barack Obama is the worst president in history](#). ... Somebody has to go to Washington and knock the hell out of the place."

Take No Prisoners

Dale Peterson, Republican candidate for agricultural commissioner of Alabama, ran an ad in May, which he posed with a rifle and declared, "[I'll name names and take no prisoners.](#)" He lost the primary.

Gather Your Armies

A month later, Rick Barber (R-AL) drew attention to his Congressional campaign with a TV ad in which he and "the Founding Fathers" discussed the current tax code. At the end of the ad, in which the cameras zoom in on colonial-era pistols several times, one of the Founders says, "[Gather your armies.](#)" He also [lost his primary](#).

Cleaning My Guns

About a year ago, Richard Behney, a tea partier from Indiana running for former Sen. Evan Bayh's seat, told a group of Second Amendment activists [that they didn't have to resort to armed insurrection -- "yet."](#)

"We can get new faces in. Whether it's my face or not, I pray to God that I see new faces. And if we don't see new faces, I'm cleaning my guns and getting ready for the big show. And I'm serious about that, and I bet you are, too. But I know none of us want to go that far yet, and we can do it with our vote," he said.

We Hunt Democrats

Another one from 2009: Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS) told Politico that [he hunts Democrats](#). Asked about the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, he said, "We hunt liberal, tree-hugging Democrats, although it does seem like a waste of good ammunition."

Note 2:

Sarah Pac Donations

House

Total to Democrats: \$0

Total to Republicans: \$149,500

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bachmann, Michele (R-MN)	\$3,500
Benishek, Daniel J (R-MI)	\$5,000
Berg, Rick (R-ND)	\$3,500
Blackburn, Marsha (R-TN)	\$3,500
Bucshon, Larry D (R-IN)	\$3,500
Contreras, Janet L (R-AZ)	\$5,000
Duffy, Sean P (R-WI)	\$2,500
Ellmers, Renee (R-NC)	\$5,000
Fimian, Keith S (R-VA)	\$5,000
Griffin, Tim (R-AR)	\$5,000
Hall, David (R-TN)	\$5,000
Hartzler, Vicky (R-MO)	\$5,000
Hoffman, Doug (3-NY)	\$5,000
Hurt, Robert (R-VA)	\$5,000
Kelly, Mike (R-PA)	\$5,000
Kinzinger, Adam (R-IL)	\$6,000
Koster, John (R-WA)	\$5,000
Marcy, Bill (R-MS)	\$5,000
Marino, Tom (R-PA)	\$3,500
Maynard, Elliott (R-WV)	\$3,500
McClung, Ruth (R-AZ)	\$5,000
McKinley, David B (R-WV)	\$3,500
McKinney, Ray (R-GA)	\$5,000
McMorris Rodgers, Cathy (R-WA)	\$5,000
Mulvaney, John Michael "Mick" (R-SC)	\$5,000
Nunnelee, Alan (R-MS)	\$5,000
Parker, Star (R-CA)	\$5,000
Philpot, Morgan (R-UT)	\$5,000
Renacci, James B (R-OH)	\$5,000
Roby, Martha (R-AL)	\$5,000
Rooney, Tom (R-FL)	\$1,000
Schmidt, Jean (R-OH)	\$1,000

House

Total to Democrats: \$0

Total to Republicans: \$149,500

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scott, Tim (R-SC)	\$5,000
Ward, Vaughn L (R-ID)	\$5,000
West, Allen B (R-FL)	\$1,000
Young, Todd (R-IN)	\$3,500

Senate

Total to Democrats: \$0

Total to Republicans: \$105,000

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Total</u>
Angle, Sharron E (R-NV)	\$5,000
Ayotte, Kelly A (R-NH)	\$10,000
Blunt, Roy (R-MO)	\$2,500
Burr, Richard (R-NC)	\$2,500
Coburn, Tom (R-OK)	\$2,500
DeMint, James W (R-SC)	\$7,500
Didier, Clint B (R-WA)	\$5,000
Fiorina, Carly (R-CA)	\$2,500
Graham, Lindsey (R-SC)	\$1,000
Grassley, Chuck (R-IA)	\$7,500
Hatch, Orrin G (R-UT)	\$1,000
Hoeven, John (R-ND)	\$5,000
McCain, John (R-AZ)	\$5,000
Miller, Joe (R-AK)	\$10,000
Murkowski, Lisa (I-AK)	\$5,000
O'Donnell, Christine (R-DE)	\$10,000
Paul, Rand (R-KY)	\$7,000
Portman, Rob (R-OH)	\$8,500
Rubio, Marco (R-FL)	\$5,000
Thune, John (R-SD)	\$2,500
Toomey, Pat (R-PA)	\$5,000

Note 3:

[FreedomWorks](#) Support \$11,402.26 [Susan B Anthony List Inc. Candidate Fund](#)
Support \$200,000.00 [Rightchange.Com Inc \(527 Political Org\)](#) Support \$40,474.56
[Fidelis](#) Support \$1,950.00 [Patriot Majority USA Fund *](#) \$563,500.00 [American](#)

[Crossroads](#) Support \$387,275.59 [Western Representation PAC](#) Support \$137,342.24
[Club for Growth Action](#) Support \$102,675.39 [Restore America's Voice PAC](#) Support
 \$43,319.48 [Gun Owners Of America Inc.](#) Support \$40,325.00 [ACU-PAC](#) Support
 \$12,104.02 [Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies](#) Support \$126,013.58 [Our
 Country Deserves Better/TeaPartyExpress](#) Support \$622,379.00 [National Right to
 Life](#) Support \$46,604.11 [Club for Growth](#) Support \$250,041.59 [Eagle Forum](#) Support
 \$8,000.00 [Justice-PAC](#) Support \$6,000.00 [Nevada Right to Life](#) Support \$1,088.56
[Senate Conservatives Fund](#) Support \$263,930.46 [Republican Majority Campaign](#)
 Support \$4,000.00 [Citizens United](#) Support \$209,492.00

Note 4:

2010 Chamber Expenditures

Candidate Results	Party Ads	State	Office	Total	For	Against
Boxer, Barbara	DCA	Senate	\$4,911,122	\$0	\$0	Winner
Bennet, Michael	FDCO	Senate	\$2,045,526	\$0	\$0	Winner
Crist, Charlie	IFL	Senate	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	Lost
Giannoulis, Alexander	DIL	Senate	\$1,682,856	\$0	\$0	Lost
Hodes, Paul	WDNH	Senate	\$1,650,214	\$0	\$0	Lost
Sestak, Joseph A Jr	DPA	Senate	\$1,488,880	\$0	\$0	Lost
Carnahan, Robin	DMO	Senate	\$1,435,101	\$0	\$0	Lost
Conway, Jack	DKY	Senate	\$1,254,010	\$0	\$0	Lost
Brown, Scott	PRMA	Senate	\$1,001,400	\$0	\$0	Winner
Rossi, Dino	RWA	Senate	\$997,525	\$0	\$0	Lost
Norton, Jane	RCO	Senate	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	Lost in primary
Feingold, Russ	DWI	Senate	\$748,300	\$0	\$0	Lost
Lincoln, Blanche	DAR	Senate	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	Lost
Titus, Dina	DNV	House	\$549,850	\$0	\$0	Lost
Blumenthal, Richard	DCT	Senate	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	Winner
Ellsworth, Brad	DIN	Senate	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	Lost
Perriello, Tom	DVA	House	\$442,765	\$0	\$0	Lost
Kratovil, Frank M Jr	DMD	House	\$437,524	\$0	\$0	Lost
Teague, Harry	DNM	House	\$436,953	\$0	\$0	Lost
Heinrich, Martin	DNM	House	\$416,882	\$0	\$0	Winner
McNerney, Jerry	DCA	House	\$415,184	\$0	\$0	Winner
Critz, Mark	DPA	House	\$398,551	\$0	\$0	Winner
Carney, Chris	DPA	House	\$398,365	\$0	\$0	Lost
Marshall, Jim	DGA	House	\$390,030	\$0	\$0	Lost
Bocchieri, John	ADOH	House	\$354,120	\$0	\$0	Lost
Boswell, Leonard	LDIA	House	\$348,062	\$0	\$0	Winner
Blunt, Roy	RMO	Senate	\$324,640	\$0	\$0	Winner
Halvorson, Deborah	DIL	House	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	Lost
Pomeroy, Earl	DND	House	\$273,525	\$0	\$0	Lost
Lassa, Julie	DWI	House	\$266,593	\$0	\$0	Lost

Kilroy, Mary JoDOH House\$261,735\$0\$0Lost
Grayson, AlanDFL House\$250,000\$0\$0Lost
Kosmas, SuzanneDFL House\$250,000\$0\$0Lost
Markey, BetsyDCO House\$250,000\$0\$0Lost
Dahlkemper, KathleenDPA House\$248,500\$0\$0Lost
Braley, BruceDIA House\$248,240\$0\$0Winner
Ross, MikeDAR House\$223,148\$0\$0Winner
Owens, BillDNY House\$206,572\$0\$0Winner
Ryan, TimDOH House\$195,345\$0\$0Winner
Bright, BobbyDAL House\$195,140\$0\$0Lost
Hall, JohnDNY House\$192,206\$0\$0Lost
Matheson, JimDUT House\$180,308\$0\$0Winner
Sanchez, LorettaDCA House\$180,000\$0\$0Winner
Moore, Stephene AnnDKS House\$172,864\$0\$0Lost
Murphy, PatrickJ DPA House\$170,000\$0\$0Lost
Giffords, GabrielleDAZ House\$161,907\$0\$0Winner
Grijalva, Raul MDAZ House\$161,215\$0\$0Winner
Keating, William RDMA House\$160,064\$0\$0Winner
Holt, RushDNJ House\$150,000\$0\$0Winner
Inslee, Jay RDWA House\$149,870\$0\$0Winner
Heck, DennisDWA House\$149,540\$0\$0Lost
Kuster, Ann MclaneDNH House\$149,380\$0\$0Lost
Shea-Porter, CarolDNH House\$148,640\$0\$0Lost
Lentz, BryanDPA House\$146,680\$0\$0Lost
Minnick, WaltDID House\$141,234\$0\$0Lost
Childers, Travis WDMS House\$137,208\$0\$0Lost
Boren, DanDOK House\$134,390\$0\$0Winner
Burns, TimRPA House\$100,000\$0\$0Lost
Seals, DanDIL House\$100,000\$0\$0Lost
Foster, BillDIL House\$99,952\$0\$0Lost
Garcia, JoeDFL House\$99,310\$0\$0Lost
Kagen, SteveDWI House\$89,418\$0\$0Lost
Nye, GlennDVA House\$82,074\$0\$0Lost
Barrow, JohnDGA House\$78,558\$0\$0Winner
Boyd, AllenDFL House\$50,000\$0\$0Lost
Space, Zachary TDOH House\$45,415\$0\$0Lost
Donnelly, JoeDIN House\$38,745\$0\$0Winner
Tedisco, JimRNY House\$30,000\$0\$0
Arcuri, MichaelDNY House\$25,712\$0\$0Lost
