

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2026

The Honorable Jeffrey Kessler
Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Under Secretary Kessler:

We write to request, pursuant to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA), information about the export of U.S.-made semi-automatic weapons.

Weapons made in the United States and exported abroad are responsible for a concerning share of criminal gun violence around the world. Data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) shows that legal U.S. firearm exports are responsible for almost 20 percent of crime gun traces in Central America and over 37 percent globally outside of North America.¹ Without proper controls, legal firearm exports are often diverted into the underground market and end up arming militia, cartels, and other criminal actors abroad, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. As this Administration attempts to combat cartels and other transnational criminal organizations in the Western Hemisphere,² it must ensure that the illicit and legal flow of U.S.-made weapons across our borders are not contributing to instability and violence and undercutting the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

As the Ranking Members of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the ECRA. The law provides for robust congressional oversight to ensure that U.S. export controls advance U.S. interests abroad. Under the ECRA, the Department is required to provide any information obtained pursuant to the Export Administration Regulations, including any license applications, “upon the request of the chairman or ranking minority member” of “a committee or subcommittee of Congress of appropriate jurisdiction.”³

Given our concerns, we request that you make the following information available in writing to our committees regarding semi-automatic firearms and associated accessories, as classified under Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 0A506 (semi-automatic rifles), 0A507 (semi-automatic pistols), 0A508 (semi-automatic shotguns), 0A509 (parts, components, devices, accessories, and attachments for ECCN 0A506, 0A507, 0A508),⁴ for each month since January 2025:

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, “PART IV: Crime Guns Recovered Outside the United States and Traced by Law Enforcement,” January 2023, p. 5, <https://www.atf.gov/media/15421/download>.

² The White House, “National Security Strategy of the United States of America,” November 2025, p. 5, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>.

³ 50 U.S.C. § 4820(h)(2)(B)(i).

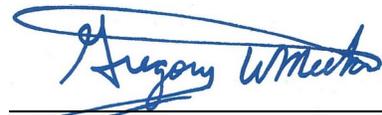
1. All BIS conditions associated with license approvals for the export of semi-automatic firearms and associated accessories;
2. Number of licenses approved for the export of semi-automatic firearms and associated accessories;
3. A detailed accounting and list of prior notifications provided to Congress as required by 15 CFR 743.6 including as stipulated in 743.6(b) since enactment;
4. List of countries to which the exports of semi-automatic firearms and associated accessories were approved and volume and type of such exports approved for each country;
5. Type of purchaser (wholesale distributor, retailer, individual customer, etc.) approved for the export of semi-automatic firearms and associated accessories;
6. Any pre- or post-shipment monitoring BIS has conducted and the number of BIS agents or units assigned to monitoring diversion of semi-automatic weapons into the underground market.

We ask that you provide the requested information by April 13, 2026. In addition to your response, we request that you provide our committees a full briefing by April 13, 2026.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, “Interactive Commerce Control List,” <https://www.bis.gov/regulations/ear/interactive-commerce-control-list?isExpanded=&category=&keyword=0A50>.