

July 26, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Deputy Public Information Officer Attorney General's Office 2005 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 <u>publicrecords@azag.gov</u>

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Attorney General's Office promptly produce the following records:

 All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (a) any of the Arizona Attorney General's Office officials listed in Column A, below, and (b) any employees or representatives of the external organizations listed in Column B, below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domains).

Column A: Arizona Attorney General's Office Officials		Column B: External Parties	
a.	Mark Brnovich, Attorney General (or anyone communicating on his behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler) (including, but not limited	i. ii.	National Rifle Association, NRA Foundation, and NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (nra.org, nrahq.org, nrafoundation.org, and nraila.org) Association of New Jersey Rifle &
b.	to, at <u>mark.brnovich@azag.gov</u>) Joe Kanefield, Chief of Staff (including, but not limited to, at	iii. iv.	Pistol Clubs (anjrpc.org) Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation (gunowners.org) National Association for Gun Rights
c.	j <u>oe.kanefield@azag.gov</u>) Beau Roysden, Solicitor General (including, but	V.	(nationalgunrights.org) Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org)

	not limited to, at	vi.	Citizens Committee for the Right to
	beau.roysden@azag.gov)		Keep and Bear Arms (ccrkba.org)
d.	Drew Ensign, Deputy	vii.	American Suppressor Association
	Solicitor General		(americansuppressorassociation.com)
	(including, but not limited	viii.	National Shooting Sports
	to, at		Foundation (nssf.org)
	<u>drew.ensign@azag.gov</u>)	ix.	Arizona Citizens Defense League
e.	Joshua Kredit, Deputy		(azcdl.org) or <u>americanicon@cox.net</u>
	Attorney General for Law	х.	Arizona State Rifle and Pistol
	and Policy (including, but		Association (asrpa.com) or
	not limited to, at		quang@caddisad.com,
	<u>joshua.kredit@azag.gov)</u>		geyerdavid@hotmail.com,
			bluebeckham@gmail.com,
			edroberts@cox.net,
			<u>s.montanarella@att.net</u> , or
			selinabliss@gmail.com

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically <u>excludes</u>, the <u>initial</u> mailing of news clips or other massdistribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails <u>are</u> responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Attorney General Brnovich received a mass-distribution news clip email from an email ending in @nra.org, that initial email would <u>not</u> be responsive to this request. However, if Attorney General Brnovich forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

2. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) <u>sent</u> by any of the Arizona Attorney General's Office officials listed in Column A, above, containing any of the search terms listed below.

Search Terms

- i. "National Rifle Association" ii. NRA "Gun Owners of iii. America" iv. GOA "Association for Gun v. Rights" NAGR vi. vii. SAF "Right to Keep and Bear" viii.
- ix. CCRKBA

- x. "Suppressor Association"
- xi. "Shooting Sports
 - Foundation"
- xii. NSSF
- xiii. "Rifle & Pistol"
- xiv. ANJRPC
- xv. "Citizens Defense
- League"
- xvi. AZCDL
- xvii. "Rifle and Pistol"
- xviii. ASRPA

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited item 2 of its request to emails <u>sent</u> by the listed custodians. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Attorney General Brnovich's response to an email containing the term "Bump Stock" and that initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For both parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2021, through the date the search is conducted.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding interactions Attorney General Brnovich and other senior officials may have had with pro-gun groups. The state's relationship with pro-gun interests is a topic of considerable public interest in Arizona.¹ Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent pro-gun interests have sought to influence the Attorney General's Office.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.²

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying

¹ Adam Shaw, 24 States Urge Supreme Court to Take Case Challenging NJ Large-Capacity Magazine Ban, Fox News, May 28, 2021, <u>https://www.foxnews.com/politics/states-urge-supreme-court-case-challenging-nj-magazine-ban</u>.

² American Oversight currently has approximately 15,600 page likes on Facebook and 106,200 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook,

<u>https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/</u> (last visited June 22, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <u>https://twitter.com/weareoversight</u> (last visited June 22, 2021).

and postage charges, if applicable.³ Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes

³ A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*,128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Khahilia Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 539-6507.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Khahilia Shaw</u> Khahilia Shaw on behalf of American Oversight