



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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The Washington Post  
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To the Editor:

If Dr. Luntz's questions to gun owners were phrased as Post columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes, it's no wonder the results were skewed ("Beyond the NRA's Absolutism," Dec. 10, 2009)

In fact, the Tiahrt Amendment does not "prevent law enforcement officials from having full access to gun trace data." It only limits the general public's access. The purpose of the Tiahrt Amendment is to protect ongoing criminal investigations and to save the lives of law enforcement officers and others. Let's be clear: No law enforcement agency in the country has ever been denied access to firearms trace data about their community. Not a single one.

Keeping such sensitive law enforcement information out of the hands of the public is supported by ATF and the Fraternal Order of Police. When New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Dr. Luntz's client, misused the data to launch so-called "sting" operations against firearms retailers – without the knowledge of ATF or his own police department – he interfered with as many as 18 criminal investigations forcing ATF to pull agents out of the field for their own protection.

Makes you wonder what the rest of Dr. Luntz's questions look like, doesn't it?

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence G. Keane

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association of the firearms industry.