

**QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD**  
**WILLIAM P. BARR**  
**NOMINEE TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CRAPO**

Operation Choke Point was an Obama-era initiative that targeted “high risk” industries and prevented them from fully participating in the economy. Employees of the DOJ coordinated with federal bank examiners to press financial institutions who provided financial services to certain targeted industries (including firearms and ammunition) to end these relationships. This program effectively operated as an end-run around the Second Amendment. Some Idaho businesses were directly impacted by this effort.

In July 2017, Senator Tillis and I sent a letter to your predecessor, then-Attorney General Sessions, requesting a review of all options available to ensure lawful businesses are able to continue to operate without fear of significant financial consequences, and asked for a statement ensuring that Operation Choke Point would no longer be in effect. We received a commitment from the Department that it had ended Operation Choke Point. Last November, my republican Banking Committee colleagues and I wrote FDIC Chairman Jelena McWilliams to again confirm that banks are not cutting off lawful businesses simply because they were viewed as unfavorable by certain administrations.

1. Do you believe Operation Choke Point was inappropriate and should not have been initiated?

**RESPONSE: I have no knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding these issues beyond what I have seen reported in the news media, but I do not believe the Justice Department should operate programs aimed to cut off access to payment systems and banking services for merchants because they conduct business in politically disfavored industries.**

2. Will you commit to review whether DOJ has actually ended Operation Choke Point?

**RESPONSE: Yes.**

3. Will you assure that, if confirmed, you will not resurrect Operation Choke Point or any other program aimed to cut off access to payment systems and banking services for merchants in politically disfavored industries?

**RESPONSE: Yes. Please also see my responses to Questions 1 and 2 above.**