

MARK D. MATTHEWS



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12 August 2011

Senator Jim Webb  
Richmond Office  
507 East Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

SUBJECT: Flyer put out in Colorado by Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Senator Webb,

I have recently seen a flyer distributed to Colorado military surplus stores by the local FBI office. It requests that proprietors of such stores require IDs, track purchases, use "soft interrogation" techniques and report any suspicions to local law enforcement. Unfortunately, "suspicious people or groups" include anyone who espouses a desire for personal privacy, pays in cash, makes "extreme statements about race, religion or violence" or "suspicious comments" against the government. "Suspicious purchases" include bulk purchases of items such as weatherproof matches, ammunition, MREs, night vision/infra-red flashlights, standard-capacity magazines or rifle bipods.

It seems that Colorado hunters, varminters, hikers, recreational shooters, those having an interest in preparing for emergencies who are livid at the irresponsibility and incompetence rampant in this administration are considered potential terrorists by the FBI. The FBI's actions are particularly ominous because these types of purchases are the same types of purchases that Department of Homeland Security encourages Americans to purchase for purposes of personal preparedness (such as those listed at [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)).

I sincerely hope that you are in a position to put an end to this nonsense before merely writing my Senator is enough to make me appear "suspicious".

Sincerely,

Mark D. Matthews

Enclosure