



## HAMPTON ROADS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

The Hampton Roads Fire Chiefs Association (HRFCA) proudly endorses The Honorable Terry Cole, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, for the position of Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Throughout his tenure, Secretary Cole has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and dedication to public safety, making him an outstanding candidate for this critical role.

Virginia's fire service, like many across the nation, has faced significant challenges in recent years, including funding constraints, a shrinking volunteer force, rising operational costs, and complex political landscapes. Despite his distinguished law enforcement background, since he was appointed Secretary of Public Safety in 2023, Secretary Cole has been a steadfast advocate for Virginia's fire service. He has engaged in meaningful discussions across the Commonwealth, gaining a deep understanding of the needs and concerns of our profession. His commitment to championing public safety initiatives has been unwavering, and his ability to build collaborative partnerships has strengthened Virginia's emergency response capabilities.

While his confirmation as the next DEA Administrator would be a loss for Virginia, it would be an extraordinary gain for the nation. Mr. Cole's lifelong dedication to public service, integrity, and leadership make him exceptionally well-suited to lead the DEA. We are confident that his commitment to protecting communities and supporting public safety professionals will continue at the federal level.

It is with great honor that we endorse Secretary Cole for this prestigious position. Should you have any questions regarding our endorsement, please feel free to contact us at [lsnyder@williamsburgva.gov](mailto:lsnyder@williamsburgva.gov) or [sgulisan@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:sgulisan@cityofchesapeake.net).

With Gratitude,

Larry W. Snyder, Jr.  
HRFCA, Chair

Simone "Sam" Gulisano  
HRFCA, Vice Chair