



Connie S. Compton
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Honorable Sheriff Connie S. Compton, Sheriff of Rappahannock County Virginia
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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Terrance "Terry" Cole as Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Having personally worked with Mr. Cole during his tenure as Director of Public Safety for the Commonwealth of Virginia under Governor Glenn Youngkin, I can attest to his exceptional qualifications and leadership abilities.

Mr. Cole brings 28 years of dedicated law enforcement experience to this position, with 22 of those years serving within the DEA itself. This extensive institutional knowledge gives him unparalleled insight into the agency's operations, challenges, and potential. His deep understanding of the DEA's mission makes him uniquely qualified to lead the organization during this critical time when our nation faces unprecedented challenges from illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl.

During our time working together in Virginia, I witnessed firsthand Mr. Cole's strategic vision, operational excellence, and commitment to public safety. He consistently demonstrated the ability to coordinate complex multi-agency operations while maintaining focus on the mission of protecting our communities. His approach combines tough enforcement with innovative prevention strategies—exactly the balance needed at the federal level.

As a husband and father, Mr. Cole brings a personal stake to the fight against dangerous drugs in our communities. He understands the devastating impact that drug trafficking and abuse have on families across America. This perspective informs his passionate commitment to getting fentanyl and other deadly substances off our streets and out of our schools.

The DEA requires a leader with both extensive field experience and executive management capabilities. Mr. Cole has proven himself in both arenas. His comprehensive background in drug enforcement, combined with his executive experience overseeing public safety for an entire state, makes him exceptionally well-prepared for this critical role.

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to move swiftly to confirm Terrance Cole as the next Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Our communities cannot afford delays in having strong, experienced leadership at the helm of this vital agency.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on this important nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dennis S. Langston", is written over a horizontal line.

Rappahannock County Sheriff