

Smyth County Sheriff's Office



Major J.A. Joannou
Chief Deputy

B.C. "Chip" Shuler
Sheriff

Captain Mark Blevins
Patrol

Captain A.K. Powers
School Resource

Captain Bill Eller
Criminal Investigation

P.O. Box 964 • 626 South Main Street • Marion, Virginia 24354
Phone: (276) 782-4056 • Fax: (276) 782-4058

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley,

I am writing this letter in support of Secretary Terry Cole becoming our new Administrator for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Secretary Cole has done an excellent job as Secretary of Public Safety for Virginia. I am the Sheriff of Smyth County, Virginia, a rural County in the far Southwest region of the State. Secretary Cole has been to my region numerous times throughout his tenure to hear our concerns, and he has been here numerous times during our times of need. I lost three Deputies in 2024, one to cancer, one shot in the line of duty, and one to a traffic accident. Each time, Secretary Cole not only called me, but came to me offering whatever assistance I needed. Secretary Cole also came to our assistance in Southwest Virginia during one of the worst natural disasters in this region's history. It is not unusual for my cell phone to ring and Terry Cole calling to just check how I'm doing. I know that Terry Cole will be the best Administrator the DEA could ever have; he's been boots on the ground with the DEA in the past and what better leader can anyone have than that leader who has done the job before.

I 100% support the appointment of Secretary Terry Cole to the position of Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency and look forward to working with him in this new role.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B.C. Shuler".

Sheriff B.C. "Chip" Shuler
FBINA 234/VSI Certified



An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency