



**Radford**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of  
Public Safety

Eric S. Plummer, Ph.D.  
Chief of Police  
Radford University  
810 East Main Street  
Radford, Virginia 24142

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Endorsement of Terrance Cole for DEA Administrator

Dear Chairman Grassley,

I am writing to express my strongest support for the nomination of Terrance Cole as the next Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Throughout his distinguished career, Secretary Cole has exemplified integrity, leadership, and a commitment to collaboration, making him the ideal candidate to lead the DEA during this critical time. His ability to build strong partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies while always keeping public safety above politics demonstrates his readiness to take on this national leadership role.

One of Secretary Cole's defining strengths is his dedication to cross-agency collaboration. As the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia, he consistently engaged with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, ensuring a coordinated approach to combat crime and drug trafficking. His leadership in Operation Ceasefire, which focused on reducing violent crime, and Operation FREE, which targeted fentanyl-related deaths, highlighted his ability to unite law enforcement agencies and implement impactful, bipartisan solutions.

Beyond these large-scale initiatives, he has shown an unwavering commitment to university and campus law enforcement agencies. He regularly engaged with university police chiefs across the state, recognizing the critical role they play in protecting students, faculty, and staff. His understanding of the unique challenges faced by campus law enforcement, ranging from drug interdiction to emergency response, led him to champion policies that supported training, resources, and interagency cooperation.

On a personal level, Secretary Cole has demonstrated a level of care and engagement that is rare in leadership. Following the devastating Hurricane Helene flooding, which impacted Radford University and the surrounding region, he personally visited our campus, offering direct support and ensuring that our needs were met. His hands-on approach, willingness to listen, and ability to connect agencies with necessary resources exemplify his leadership style, one that values action over words and relationships over bureaucracy.

Secretary Cole's career speaks for itself. From his time as a local officer in New York, to his service as a DEA field agent in Oklahoma and Texas, to supervising a Task Force in Dallas, and later assuming executive leadership roles within DEA and Virginia's public safety sector, he has gained firsthand operational experience at every level of law enforcement. His international experience as Assistant Regional Director for the DEA in Mexico City further strengthens his ability to navigate the complex global challenges of drug enforcement.

At a time when fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and violent crime threaten communities nationwide, we need a leader who understands law enforcement from the ground up, someone who values collaboration, innovation, and results. Secretary Terrance Cole is that leader.

I strongly urge the committee to support his confirmation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Plummer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric S. Plummer, Ph.D.  
Chief of Police