



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

AARON D. KENNARD
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May 16, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

For over 70 years, the National Sheriffs' Association has represented thousands of sheriffs, deputies and other law enforcement, public safety professionals and concerned citizens nationwide. We write to express our overwhelming support for the nomination of Tony West to the position of Associate Attorney General of the United States.

As an association representing law enforcement personnel across the country, we recognize the importance of having a strong partnership between the federal and local law enforcement communities. Mr. West's extensive experience as a state and federal prosecutor prove that he will be a committed advocate for law enforcement and public safety. Mr. West has developed partnerships with all levels of law enforcement through his work as an assistant U.S. Attorney, a special assistant attorney general for the state of California, and a senior official in the Justice Department. As a federal prosecutor, Mr. West worked with local police officers and federal agents, prosecuting drug traffickers and violent criminals. He also served as a Special Assistant Attorney General in California, assisting the state Attorney General in setting crime and law enforcement policy across California.

As Acting Associate Attorney General, Mr. West oversees the administration of grants that are essential to law enforcement officials across the country. Mr. West has overseen the Community Oriented Policing Services, which distributes grants to law enforcement agencies to hire or rehire career officers to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. He also coordinated with the Office of Violence Against Women to procure federal funding for critical violence against women projects and help secure passage of tribal provisions in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which enhanced law enforcement practices to address the alarmingly high rate of violence against women in tribal communities.

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Finally, Mr. West has promoted innovation with state and local law enforcement agencies by improving the safety and wellness of our nation's law enforcement personnel through research and initiatives such as the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group and through the development of the Collaborative Reform Project, which provide much-needed responses and technical assistance on critical law enforcement issues. Moreover, as a federal board member of the First Responder Network Authority, Mr. West is working with state and local law enforcement leaders and communication innovators to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network.

Mr. West is especially well-qualified for this important position, and he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public safety and excellence in law enforcement throughout his career. His leadership role in coordinating among various law enforcement organizations further demonstrate his outstanding capabilities as an effective manager. For those reasons, we hope that the Senate will confirm Mr. West promptly to serve as the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Kennard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (Ret.)
Executive Director