

March 6, 2013

Honorable The Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Fax 202-224-9516

The Honorable Senator Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Fax 202-224-9102

The Honorable Amy Klobucher  
United States Senator  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Fax 202-228-2186

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senator  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Fax 202-224-0044

Re: Nomination of B. Todd Jones for Director ATFE

RECEIVED MAR 08 2013

Dear Chairman and members of Judiciary Committee;

I would like to offer my support for B. Todd Jones' appointment as the Director of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATFE). I am writing as a result of my experience working with Mr. Jones in his capacity as the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, where I served as Administrative Officer from January of 1981 until I retired in January of 2007. During my 26 years as the chief administrator in that office, I had the honor and distinction of working with 7 presidentially appointed United States Attorneys. I believe that Todd Jones was one of the finest U.S. Attorneys that served the District of Minnesota during my tenure.

Todd Jones distinguished himself in many aspects as U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota and I would like to relay just a few of those to you.

First, Todd was a master at developing a team-work approach to office management, ensuring that each person within the organization felt a vital role in their assigned responsibilities. Through his enthusiasm and skill at directing appropriate resources to assigned tasks, he created a very positive office atmosphere. He understood how people respond to different stimulus or deterrents and knew the best way to achieve desired results. The U.S. Attorney's Office is comprised of a variety of individuals, including highly successful prosecuting attorneys and distinguished civil attorneys as well as all the personnel that support the mission of the office, from the First Assistant U.S. Attorney to the student assistants. Todd had a gift for bringing out the best in people for the task at hand. He took an interest in each person and was never "too big or too important," realizing that everyone had a role to play in the mission of the office. Workers wanted to succeed and were very willing to go the extra mile to achieve the desired results sought by the organization.

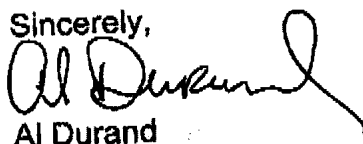
Secondly, Todd was by far the most technologically progressive U.S. Attorney I had the pleasure to work with. In 1998 when Todd became the U.S. Attorney, we were in a period of time when great advancements were being made in office technology, cell

Phone and Internet communications and the use of image display for evidence in the courtroom. It was quite apparent that private law firms and defense attorneys who were our adversaries on many occasions had equipment and technological support that exceeded the government's resources. Private law firms had (at the time) cutting-edge, state-of-the-art cell phones compared to our outmoded and out-of-date communication devices. Furthermore, the government's courtroom presentations were being jeopardized by the private sector's latest technological displays. Todd quickly realized that this was detrimental to our mission of putting federal offenders away and to civilly protecting assets of the United States. He made a quick shift of emphasis in resources devoted to informational management. With additional increases in competent personnel and technology acquisitions, the U.S. Attorney's Office made great strides holding our own with adversaries in court and our office became one of the leading U.S. Attorney's Offices technologically.

Thirdly, Todd Jones demonstrated great leadership in dealing with a multitude of intergovernmental agencies throughout the State of Minnesota. Of the 94 U.S. District Attorney Offices, the District of Minnesota office is one of a few that represents an entire state, which makes it one of the larger geographic districts. It encompasses 87 counties, more than 800 municipalities, and a variety of governmental districts all with a paramount interest in providing proper protection and law enforcement for its citizens. Todd understood the role of the U.S. Attorney's Office as one of the chief legal law enforcement components for the state and made great efforts, both in and outside the office, to ensure that all participants of the statewide "law enforcement family" were connected and exchanged information and ideas. In the office, it was well understood that all entities of the statewide system were an integral part of law enforcement. Specific personnel were assigned to be contact points with other law enforcement agencies. Additionally, law enforcement coordinating meetings were periodically scheduled throughout the state, soliciting the input of law enforcement entities and individuals. Todd also was very involved in recognizing the individual efforts of law enforcement personnel, with the presentation of the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Award given yearly to a law enforcement official for individual achievement. Through Todd's efforts, the U.S. Attorney's Office had a very effective relationship with law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

In closing, I would like to say that I think Todd Jones would be an exceptional choice as Director of ATFE. He can effectively deal with challenges relating to people, to technology, to organizations or any other obstacle put before him. He would continue to be a great dedicated servant of the public and would do honor to the position of Director of ATFE.

Sincerely,



Al Durand

