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February 13, 2013

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The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RECEIVED FEB 13 2013

Dear Chairman:

Re: Byron "Todd" Jones

I write in reference to the nomination of Byron "Todd" Jones to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. I have known Todd for over 30 years, since we met as second year law students at the University of Minnesota. At that time, he was passionately interested in the issues confronting our communities, our state and our country and actively engaged in discussions about what could be done to address those issues. He still is.

Perhaps even more remarkable than his interest in the issues of the day is the practical, non-ideological approach he has always brought to those issues. It has always been impossible to describe Todd in superficial terms, or to assume that he will approach an issue with the approach most commonly expected from a party politician. His experience as a soldier, as a prosecutor, and as a practicing lawyer has brought to him a breadth and depth of perspective that is sorely needed in our government leaders.

In addition to this thoughtfulness, Todd understands how to manage an organization. This is often about the most basic things: setting goals, communicating those goals and holding an organization accountable through measurement and repetition to achieving those goals. Todd will bring that capacity for management to the ATF, an organization that is in need of such leadership.

In summary, I recommend Todd highly and encourage you to confirm his appointment as Director of the ATF. Please let me know if there is any further information I can provide to you in connection with your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Arne M. Sorenson