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July 11, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley

United States Senate

135 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of Support – Nomination of Todd Blanche for Attorney General of the United States
BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Dear Senator Grassley,

I am writing to offer my strongest possible endorsement of Todd Blanche for the position of Attorney General of the United States. I do so with full knowledge of the weight this nomination carries and with the firm conviction, grounded in decades of personal experience, that Todd Blanche is precisely the right person to lead the Department of Justice at this critical moment in our nation's history.

I first came to know Todd Blanche in 1999, when he began his career as a paralegal in the Violent Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, while attending law school at night. At that time, I was serving as an NYPD Homicide Detective, working daily alongside that office in exactly the kind of close, sustained partnership that defined violent crime prosecution in New York. The relationship was so constant and so collaborative that I occupied a desk and maintained a direct phone number there. In June 2001, I retired from the NYPD to join the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as a Special Agent assigned to New York. That transition changed my badge, but little else—I continued working with the Southern District of New York, occupying that same desk, and working the same type of violent crime cases until I departed for Phoenix in February 2007. It was across all of those years, in that shared workspace and on those shared cases, that I came to know Todd Blanche, and the qualities I witnessed in him then, have never left my assessment of him as dedicated public servant.

I know Todd Blanche to be a quiet, thoughtful, and soft-spoken man. But make no mistake—beneath that measured demeanor is a tenacious, fair, and deeply ethical federal prosecutor. He is the kind of lawyer who does not seek the spotlight, yet consistently delivers results grounded in the law and in justice. These are not traits that can be taught; they are the product of character and hard work. And in my experience, character is the single most important qualification for anyone entrusted with the awesome powers of the Attorney General of the United States.

I departed New York for Phoenix in February 2007, but I maintained close contact with many of the ATF agents I had worked alongside in New York—men and women I deeply respect and admire. These are seasoned law enforcement professionals who do not offer praise lightly and who have seen more than most. To a person, they have spoken highly of Todd Blanche, and they

continue to do so to this day. That kind of lasting, unsolicited esteem from career law enforcement professionals is among the most meaningful endorsements a public servant can receive.

As you are well aware, Senator, my history with the Department of Justice has not been without its trials. The matters I brought to you and your staff—Operation Fast and Furious and the Kingery grenades case—exposed serious failures of leadership, judgment, and ethical accountability at the highest levels of the Department. I have long believed, and I remain firmly convinced, that those failures would never have occurred had someone of Todd Blanche's character been at the helm of the Department of Justice at that time. His commitment to fairness, his respect for the rule of law, and his refusal to allow institutional or political pressures to override his judgment are exactly the qualities that were so tragically absent during that era. The lives lost and the careers destroyed as a result of those failures demand that we never again allow the Department of Justice to be led by those who place politics above principle.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to you and your dedicated staff for having my back during the deeply difficult period that followed my protected disclosures regarding Operation Fast and Furious. At a time when powerful forces within the Department of Justice sought to discredit and silence me, the support of your office was not merely appreciated—it was a lifeline. Your commitment to protecting whistleblowers and holding government accountable, regardless of political consequence, is a testament to the kind of principled public service that our nation desperately needs. I am forever grateful.

Since retiring, I have endeavored to ensure that my 35 years in law enforcement continue to serve a purpose beyond my own career. Walking away from a profession that defined me for over three decades was not easy—it never is for those who have given their lives to this work. But I have come to understand that retirement does not mean the end of service; it simply changes its form. I have volunteered my time with Empower Oversight, a government watchdog non-profit founded by two former members of your staff—Jason Foster and Tristan Leavitt—whose dedication to transparency and accountability reflects the values I witnessed in your office. I have spoken to numerous law enforcement groups about the hard lessons learned from Operation Fast and Furious and the critical importance of ethical leadership at every level of government. And I now serve as the Director of Law Enforcement Affairs for the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation, where I can continue to advocate for the men and women who serve on the front lines of this nation's law enforcement community. I view writing this letter as very much a continuation of that service—something I will always be quite passionate about.

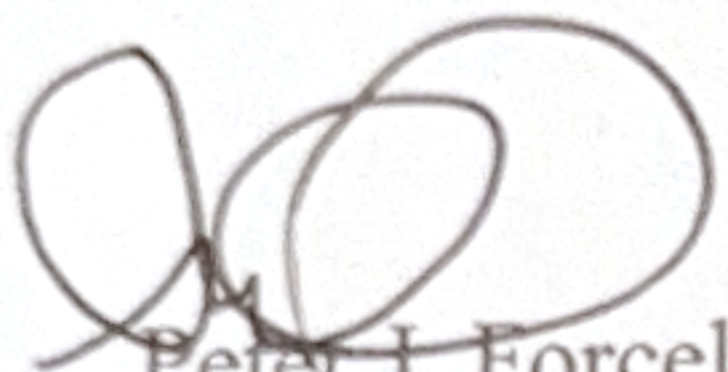
Based on my direct personal knowledge of Todd Blanche spanning more than two decades, my career experience as an NYPD Homicide Detective, a Special Agent and senior executive of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and my deep and abiding passion for

good, honest, and ethical government, I am proud to offer him my unqualified endorsement.
There is no better candidate for this critical position.

I respectfully urge you to support his confirmation as Attorney General of the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Forcelli