

RECEIVED MAY 10 2013

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May 8, 2013

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

Sent via fax: 202-224-9516

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via fax: 202-224-9102

Re: Nomination of B. Todd Jones as ATF Director

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

I write in support of President Obama's nomination of B. Todd Jones, U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. By way of background, following graduation from law school, I clerked for the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota and then practiced law for some time in a small Minneapolis law firm. In 1980 I was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate for the District of Minnesota. I resigned as a Magistrate in 1984 and have served as the senior executive in a family-owned holding company with interests in transportation, community banking, real estate and agricultural production ever since. I occasionally serve as a legal mediator in disputes pending in the state and federal courts in Minnesota.

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I have known Mr. Jones personally and professionally for almost 35 years. In 1978, when Mr. Jones was a student at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, I worked with him in my father's unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate. Todd played an important role in that campaign and I have stayed close to him and his family ever since. As Todd approached graduation, I discussed with him the wisdom of going to law school. He applied to and was accepted at the University of Minnesota Law School, one of the finest law schools in the country. Following graduation, rather than accepting a position in one of the many law firms in Minnesota which would have been glad to have had him, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. His initial service in the Corps was not as a lawyer but rather as a line infantry officer. I think that indicates the kind of man Todd is. If he is going to do anything, he learns how to do it from the ground level.

As he was making the decision to leave the Marine Corps, I once again had contact with him to discuss which of a number of opportunities he had with law firms in Minnesota would be the best for him and his family. At that time, I was serving as a U.S. Magistrate in Minnesota and had a pretty solid understanding of the law firm opportunities in Minnesota.

Todd was offered and accepted a position in one of the larger and most prestigious Minnesota law firms. His work with that firm was highly regarded, based on my conversations with friends and acquaintances who were senior partners in it. He later left that firm to join a smaller firm, where his work was also very highly thought of. He served two stints as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for this district and, based on my conversations with judges and lawyers in this community, he acquitted himself well.

In the early 2000s, a public company on whose board I serve was named as a defendant in a class action lawsuit. The lawsuit was very complicated and the company selected the Minneapolis law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi as its lead counsel. After years of discovery and pretrial motions, the case was on track to be tried in 2006. The company and its board were very concerned about who would be trying the case on behalf of the company. As a member of the board, I worked closely with the General Counsel, supervising the litigation. Late in the game, the Robins Kaplan firm and our General Counsel selected Todd Jones as a member of the trial team, whose main responsibilities would be to cross-examine some of the professional

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witnesses representing the other side. This was going to be very challenging for Todd, coming late into the game in a terribly complicated, discovery-heavy lawsuit. Scores of thousands of documents had to be reviewed and the information contained in them assimilated. Todd performed masterfully, and the General Counsel and I had complete confidence in him and the entire Robins trial team. Because of their efforts and our confidence in them, the lawsuit was resolved favorably on the eve of trial.

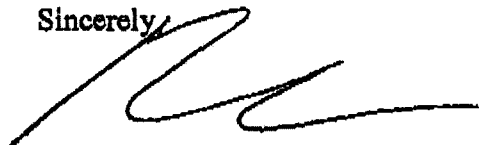
In addition, I have served on two nonprofit boards with Todd. He is a committed board member who diligently provided service to the boards on which we served. One was a private educational institution and the other one of the largest social service providers in Minnesota. He brought a unique perspective to both.

Finally, my wife and I have had the privilege of knowing Todd, his wife Margaret and their children on a personal basis. They are proud of their kids and we are proud to have them as friends.

In conclusion, I urge your favorable consideration of President Obama's nomination of Todd Jones. He is a dedicated public servant who has served his country in the military and as a member of the Department of Justice. He is a skillful lawyer who has represented the interests of his clients successfully. He is an able administrator who will be able to handle the significant challenges he will face at ATF. Finally, he is a dedicated and committed father and husband. All of those qualifications will serve the country well in the future.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian P. Short', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brian P. Short

BPS:nem

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cc: The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via fax: 202-228-2186

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senator
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via fax: 202-224-0044