



WIFLE FOUNDATION, INC.

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May 22, 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:

Since 1999, Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) has worked to promote the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in federal law enforcement occupations as a means to enhance the efficacy of law enforcement operations. Today we write to express our support for the nomination of Tony West to the position of Associate Attorney General of the United States. WIFLE has worked with Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West, and we know him to be a strong and effective partner of the law enforcement community.

Mr. West is a passionate advocate for law enforcement and is committed to protecting public safety. As you know, he served as a line federal prosecutor in the trenches with local police officers and federal agents, prosecuting drug traffickers and violent criminals as well as the notorious online child pornography ring known as “The Orchid Club.” Before entering the courtroom, he served as a Special Assistant in the Justice Department where he worked on the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill. As a Special Assistant Attorney General, he advised the California Attorney General’s office on statewide crime policy and law enforcement issues, including police training and civil rights.

It is this same experience that anchors his commitment to public safety and his focus on rank-and-file law enforcement priorities. As Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division, for example, Mr. West held several corporations accountable for knowingly manufacturing and selling defective bulletproof vests that put the lives of our men and women in law enforcement at risk, and he had unprecedented success in cracking down on fraud and abuse against public agencies. During his tenure as Acting Associate Attorney General, Mr. West has prioritized the safety of law enforcement personnel by supporting the Department’s Body Armor Safety Initiative, which tests the effectiveness of body armor and advances research to improve the safety of body armor used in the field. He has also worked to improve the safety and wellness of our nation’s sworn peace officers through the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group,

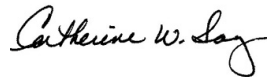
which works on issues such as improving officer training and education and access to mental health care.

Importantly, Mr. West has taken an active role in improving the Department's administration of the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program, which provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

Mr. West played an integral role in the Department's efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act which, since its enactment nearly 20 years ago, has made a significant difference in the lives of countless women and children by providing federal grants that have helped law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim-services providers. He has prioritized vigorous enforcement of human trafficking laws, securing several life sentences against a number of labor and sex trafficking perpetrators who victimized women and children. Furthermore, as chair of the Attorney General's Diversity Management Advisory Council, Mr. West shares WIFLE's commitment to promoting gender equity and diversity in law enforcement through leadership and training.

Mr. West's career, in short, has been defined in no small measure by a longstanding, deep commitment to public safety and his colleagues in front-line law enforcement. With this experience, we believe him to be well qualified to serve as the Associate Attorney General and look forward to working with him on a broad range of law enforcement and public safety issues. It is our hope that the Senate will confirm Mr. West promptly to serve as the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,



Catherine W. Sanz
President
WIFLE Foundation, Inc.