



January 28, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), I write to express our support for the nomination of Robert Cekada to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

ASCIA represents the leadership of state criminal investigative agencies across the country. Our members are responsible for complex violent crime, firearms trafficking, and drug investigations that often involve both state and federal authorities. In those cases - particularly during sensitive or high-impact incidents - coordination between ATF and state and local investigators is critical to investigative outcomes.

Mr. Cekada's experience leading ATF operations at both the headquarters and field levels, combined with earlier service in state and local law enforcement, has shaped his approach to advancing shared investigative priorities with state and local agencies. He has consistently emphasized collaboration with state and local law enforcement as central to effective enforcement efforts, making him well suited to serve as ATF Director.

Mr. Cekada has also demonstrated a strong commitment to crime gun intelligence and the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). His leadership in this area reflects an understanding of the importance of timely, actionable intelligence in supporting violent crime investigations and protecting communities. If confirmed, ASCIA is confident that Mr. Cekada will provide steady leadership at ATF and work closely with federal, state, and local partners to support effective investigations and public safety nationwide.

For these reasons, ASCIA believes Robert Cekada is well suited to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. ASCIA stands ready to provide any additional information that may be helpful to the Committee.

Respectfully,

Drew Evans
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
Superintendent, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension