



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of Puerto Rico*

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January 23, 2026

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman, United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Ranking Member, United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of Recommendation for ATF Deputy Director Cekada

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

I am writing to you in support of the confirmation of Rob Cekada to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

I have served as the PAS United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico since the fall of 2019. In my role as Puerto Rico U.S. Attorney, I worked directly with Deputy Director Cekada when he became the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Miami Field Division. In that position, then ATF SAC Cekada oversaw criminal enforcement and regulatory operations in 21 offices located in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I also interacted with Deputy Director Cekada as he served in other executive management and leadership roles within ATF.

During my over 35 years with the Justice Department, I have had the privilege of working and interacting with dozens of outstanding SACs, agency heads, and other leaders within the law enforcement community. Deputy Director Cekada stands out as a leader among leaders. He has a measured confidence, humility, and the experience that will enable him to lead ATF as it focuses on its core mission of attacking violence crime -- as he has done in Puerto Rico and across the nation for many years.

Deputy Director Cekada excels at relationship building and forging strong partnerships with federal agencies and importantly with our state and local partners. Those relationships are especially important in districts like Puerto Rico where federal agencies, including ATF, rely heavily on the support of Task Force Officers from the Puerto Rico Police Department and other local agencies. No doubt, his many years of service with local police departments – the New York City Police Department and the City of Plantation Police Department – have instilled in him the critical role our state and local partners play in successful federal law enforcement efforts.

My observations and high regard for Deputy Director Cekada are not only mine but also based on my discussions with others -- ATF agents and supervisors and colleagues in my office. Not once have I heard a negative word about Deputy Director Cekada. He leads by example and with a strong commitment to the hard-working women and men of ATF and to the mission of making our communities safer.

I recommend ATF Deputy Director Cekada for the position of ATF Director without reservation. He will serve ATF and our nation with honor, integrity, and dedication.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "W. Stephen Muldrow".

W. Stephen Muldrow  
United States Attorney  
District of Puerto Rico