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January 26, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am pleased to offer our endorsement of Robert Cekada as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Deputy Director Cekada is a career law enforcement professional with more than 30 years of local and federal service. He began his career in local policing with the New York City Police Department and later with the City of Plantation Police Department in Florida. These early years in local policing shaped his understanding of the day-to-day realities facing officers and detectives and continue to inform his leadership approach today. His subsequent federal career has included leadership roles across major ATF field divisions and headquarters. This combination of local and federal experience uniquely positions him to lead ATF at a time when the nation needs steady and experienced leadership.

Our recent discussion with Deputy Director Cekada underscored his deep commitment to reducing violent crime. He shared his intention to continue serving as a special agent. This choice ensures he remains closely connected to frontline challenges and the real-world needs of agents, officers, and state and local law enforcement partners.

Deputy Director Cekada has a strong foundation in crime gun intelligence and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). He clearly understands the operational value of this technology and has thoughtful ideas for expanding and strengthening the national crime gun intelligence network. He also underscored his deep commitment to advancing evidence-based strategies to combat violent crime.

The IACP firmly believes that appointing a seasoned career official, one who has dedicated his professional life to public service, is in the best interest of ATF and the nation. Deputy Director Cekada

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Knoxville City Government (Ret.)

Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Vincent Talucci, CAE
Alexandria, VA

Deputy Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer
Terrence M. Cunningham
Alexandria, VA

brings credibility, operational expertise, and a deep understanding of the agency's mission. His experience and leadership will be a significant asset to ATF and to the communities it serves.

For these reasons, the IACP respectfully urges the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the United States Senate, to confirm Robert Cekada as the next Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please let us know how the IACP may be of further assistance throughout this confirmation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Rausch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

David B. Rausch
IACP President