



January 23, 2025

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 Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Robert Cekada to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

MCSA represents the nation's largest Sheriff's offices, serving more than one-third of the U.S. population. Our members are on the front lines of violent crime, firearms trafficking, and complex multi-jurisdictional investigations, and they rely on strong and effective federal partnerships. In his current role as ATF Deputy Director, and throughout his career, Robert Cekada has demonstrated the leadership, experience, and collaborative approach that state and local law enforcement depend upon.

Robert Cekada has been an exceptional partner to MCSA members, consistently engaging with law enforcement leaders and working to ensure state and local agencies have the tools, intelligence, and operational support needed to keep our communities safe. His approach reflects a clear understanding of local law enforcement needs and challenges, informed by his own experience as a local police officer and his decades of service within ATF.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Cekada has supported data-driven, intelligence-led strategies to combat violent crime. MCSA members have benefited from his commitment to ensuring state and local law enforcement have access to critical investigative tools like the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), which help agencies connect shooting incidents, identify violent offenders, and strengthen prosecutions. His focus on making these tools effective, accessible, and operationally useful has had a meaningful impact in jurisdictions across the country.

Robert Cekada's extensive operational experience - from field leadership roles to senior headquarters positions - uniquely positions him to lead ATF at this important time. His career reflects a consistent dedication to public service, professionalism, and partnership with the law enforcement community.

MCSA respectfully urges the Committee to swiftly advance Robert Cekada's nomination. We are confident he will continue to serve as a strong and reliable partner to state and local law enforcement, and we look forward to working with him as Director of ATF to advance public safety nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Brown".

Sheriff Bill Brown
MCSA President
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, CA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan E. Noland".

Megan E. Noland
Executive Director
Major County Sheriffs of America