

William J. Bratton
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Hampton Bays, NY 11946

January 5, 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, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Rob Cekada for ATF Director

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I am writing to offer my strongest support for the appointment of Robert Cekada as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives. With more than 30 years of dedicated service to the law enforcement profession, including nearly two decades at his current agency, Robert has consistently demonstrated the leadership, judgment, and integrity required for service at the highest levels.

In his current role as Deputy Director, the second-highest position within the agency, Robert has been instrumental in guiding complex operations, shaping strategic priorities, and ensuring mission continuity during periods of both routine operations and heightened challenges. His deep institutional knowledge, earned through years of progressive responsibility, allows him to navigate operational, administrative, and personnel matters with exceptional effectiveness.

Throughout his career Robert has served in multiple senior leadership roles, earning the respect of peers, subordinates, and external partners alike. His tenure has been marked by a steadfast commitment to public service, operational excellence, and ethical leadership. He understands not only how to lead organizations, but how to build trust, develop talent, and make decisions that balance immediate operational needs with long-term institutional resilience.

Robert's experience, institutional perspective, and proven leadership at the executive level make him exceptionally qualified, and uniquely well positioned to contribute meaningfully from day one. Few candidates possess the combination of longevity, credibility, and strategic insight that he brings to this appointment.

I am confident that Robert will serve with distinction and continue his long-standing record of excellence in support of the agency's mission and the communities it serves. I offer my unequivocal endorsement of his appointment and believe he will be an outstanding asset in this prestigious role.

William J. Bratton

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Bratton', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Chairman Teneo Risk
Former NYPD Commissioner
Former LA Police Chief