

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Terrance C. Cole in support of his nomination to serve as the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. As the Police Chief for the City of Corning, NY, I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing and working with Terry personally and professionally for the past 30 years. Without hesitation, I can affirm that he is a dedicated, loyal, and highly capable leader who has consistently represented his hometown, family, profession, and country with the utmost integrity and professionalism.

Terry's extensive background in law enforcement, both domestically and internationally, makes him exceptionally qualified for this role. His 22-year tenure with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration saw him take on critical assignments across the United States and in foreign missions in Colombia, Afghanistan, Mexico, and the Middle East. He held numerous high-level positions, including Chief of Staff and Executive Officer for the DEA Chief of Global Operations, DEA representative to the National Security Council, and assistant regional director in Mexico City. His leadership as the acting regional director for Mexico, Canada, and Central America before his retirement in 2020 demonstrated his unwavering commitment to national and global security.

Terry's dedication to public service did not end with his DEA career. His leadership as Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety has further exemplified his ability to handle complex challenges with strategic vision and unwavering resolve. His educational background, including a degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology and advanced leadership training from the University of Virginia and the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, has reinforced his ability to lead at the highest levels.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Terry is a man of integrity, honor, and sacrifice. He has risked his life and made significant personal sacrifices for the safety and well-being of our nation. His nomination as Administrator of the DEA is a testament to his lifelong commitment to fighting drug-related crimes and ensuring the security of our communities. As someone who has witnessed his dedication firsthand, I have no doubt that he will bring the same level of passion, expertise, and leadership to this role.

I wholeheartedly and without reservation endorse Terrance C. Cole for the position of Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. His experience, character, and unwavering commitment to justice make him the ideal candidate for this critical role. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,
Kenzie M. Spaulding

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenzie M. Spaulding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Police Chief
City of Corning, NY