



Town of Culpeper Police Department

Christopher B. Settle
Chief of Police

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senator
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley,

I am writing to recommend Mr. Terry Cole, the current Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia, for appointment as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). I have had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Cole over the years, and I am confident that his experience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public safety make him an outstanding candidate for this critical position.

An example, Secretary Cole provided me with his direct cellular number and stated if the Culpeper Police Department needed state or federal assistance, to directly contact him. I took him up on that offer, and to his word, he provided me the assistance that I requested without hesitation.

Mr. Cole has demonstrated an exceptional ability to lead complex public safety initiatives at the state level, overseeing a wide range of law enforcement and homeland security responsibilities. His extensive experience in managing large teams, collaborating with federal and local agencies, and developing innovative solutions to pressing challenges in public safety uniquely position him to excel in the role of DEA Administrator.

Throughout his tenure as Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Mr. Cole has exhibited a deep understanding of the intricate issues surrounding drug enforcement and policy. His approach to tackling drug-related crimes emphasizes both strategic enforcement and support for community-based prevention and treatment programs. His comprehensive knowledge of the opioid crisis, coupled with his commitment to addressing the root causes of addiction, has had a significant and positive impact on Virginia's efforts to combat this public health emergency.

Mr. Cole's leadership style is defined by integrity, professionalism, and a tireless work ethic. He is known for his collaborative approach, building strong partnerships across government agencies, law enforcement, and community stakeholders. His ability to navigate complex political and regulatory landscapes, while staying true to his principles, makes him an ideal candidate to lead the DEA in these challenging times.

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I firmly believe that Terry Cole's extensive experience, strong moral compass, and dedication to safeguarding public health and safety make him the right person to lead the DEA. His appointment would not only benefit the agency but also strengthen our nation's ongoing efforts to combat the drug crisis and ensure the safety of American communities.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. I am confident that Mr. Cole would serve with distinction as the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, and I am happy to provide any further information or support needed to facilitate this process.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Settle
Chief of Police
Culpeper, Virginia Police Department