

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chair, Senator Grassley
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chair, Senator Grassley,

The purpose of this letter is to offer my sincere endorsement of Terrance C. "Terry" Cole to serve as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The United States of America (USA) is faced with a multitude of challenges in its fight against trans-national drug trafficking organizations and harboring nations. The expanded influence of these organizations has made DEA's role as the nation's primary drug enforcement agency more of an urgency today than anytime during its over 50 years of existence. Unfortunately, over the past several years, DEA and its employees have suffered from inept leadership lacking the experience and knowledge to recognize the agency's importance and standing in the global drug law enforcement apparatus. At this critical juncture, DEA needs a significant paradigm shift in how its leaders approach their responsibilities to ensure the agency is better positioned to effectively address this nation's drug epidemic. I am confident Mr. Cole is the right person to fulfill this need.

Mr. Cole, whom I have had the honor of knowing for over 10 years, and personally witnessed his dedication and tireless public service, served as senior executive assistant and principal advisor during my tenure as DEA's chief of operations. On a daily basis, he consistently demonstrated his ability to anticipate and effectively address potential problems or concerns. His advice was thoughtful and thoroughly researched. His exceptional communication skills augmenting his inspiring, visionary and collaborative leadership qualities, currently a critical need at DEA.

As DEA administrator, I am confident he will reestablish DEA's ability to anticipate drug trends; identify responsible criminal organizations and develop effective strategies to bring to justice those responsible for exploiting our nation's most vulnerable citizens and communities. Equally important, Mr. Cole will return DEA to its fundamental values and bring forward thinking leadership and organizational integrity back to the agency. His commitment to this need is paramount to returning DEA to its place as the world's premier drug law enforcement agency.

Senator, DEA's mission is critical to our national security and well-being. It serves at the forefront of defense against trans-national and violent domestic organizations and their pursuit of profit at the expense of American families. Confirming an experienced and dedicated administrator demonstrating impeccable integrity to lead DEA will strengthen its ability to combat this threat. My

30 years at DEA, including 10 years as a senior executive, best positions me to know the importance of having an effective and inspirational leader. Mr. Cole is that leader and the person best suited to fulfill this crucial role. He cares about this nation, DEA's the mission and its employees.

If confirmed, I am confident Mr. Cole will continue his exemplar public service and inspire the dedicated men and women of DEA to better serve this nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.D. Williams", followed by a horizontal line.

Anthony D. Williams
DEA Chief of Operations (RET)