



March 19, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), we strongly support the nomination of Terry Cole to serve as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator. Mr. Cole has dedicated his career to public service, and we are confident that his deep commitment to local law enforcement, backed by his vast experience working with all levels of government, will drive meaningful support and collaboration.

MCSA represents the largest Sheriff's Offices in the U.S., serving over one-third of the population. Our membership includes counties with populations of 400,000 or more, and we understand the critical role the DEA plays in supporting local law enforcement.

Mr. Cole has a distinguished service record, with over 28 years in law enforcement, including 22 years spent with the DEA where he ascended to be the Chief of Staff and Executive Officer over the Department of Justice Special Operations Division. Currently, he serves the state of Virginia as the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security – a role that requires close coordination between federal and the local agencies to manage complex missions and oversee personnel.

In our recent conversations with Mr. Cole, it is clear he is committed to coordination between all levels of law enforcement. He recognizes the vital role local law enforcement plays in combatting violent crime and drug trafficking organizations. Given his background and experience, we believe Mr. Cole is an ideal candidate to lead the men and women of the DEA. Our leadership looks forward to working with him closely to ensure Sheriffs across the country have access to the resources and tools necessary to keep our communities safe.

Mr. Cole has a long-standing dedication to public service and his understanding of the needs of state and local law enforcement is paramount to our endorsement. We fully support his nomination and urge your swift confirmation. If you need further information, please contact Megan Noland, Executive Director of MCSA.

Respectfully,

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

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
MCSA Vice President
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, FL

Megan E. Noland
MCSA Executive Director