

Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 699, Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone: (888) 818-0983

Web Site: www.vfca.us



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association endorses the selection of The Honorable Terry Cole, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, for the position of Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Secretary Cole is an excellent collaborator with the fire service at the local, state and federal levels. This is evident in his yearlong canvassing of every region throughout Virginia to help advocate for fire and emergency services funding requirements. Currently, five million dollars (new funding) is slated to be approved by Governor Youngkin in March and distributed for immediate help in localities by July 1, 2025. His forward leaning approach to promote implementation of such funding is an example of his leadership within the state legislature as well as supporting this need through communications with the Governor's Office. Volunteer as well as paid fire departments within Virginia will now be able to replace non-compliant critical equipment like firehose, ladders, turnout gear, personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus, all necessary to properly and safely respond to over one million calls for service.

Throughout his 22-year tenure with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where he advanced through the ranks, including tours in Oklahoma, New York, Texas, and Washington D.C., as well as foreign assignments in Colombia, Afghanistan, Mexico, and the Middle East demonstrates he has the energy, capacity and experience to be the next top drug enforcement administrator.

Secretary Cole is an advocate for public safety and Virginia's fire service is grateful for his support of bills to improve pay, benefits and strengthen Virginia's resiliency. Additionally, he has connected with families of the fallen, stood by their side, and personally helped them navigate the enormous uncertainty ahead. As the next top drug enforcer for our country, I am confident this level of engagement is necessary, and his impact will be purposeful. We believe he is an excellent choice to serve as DEA Administrator and that he will help suppress America's illegal drug crisis that will make America safer and our communities healthier.

Sincerely,

Kevin Good
President