



## Virginia Law Enforcement Sheriffs, Inc.

P. O. Box 851  
Lawrenceville, VA 23868

March 10, 2025

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

**RE: Endorsement of Terrance C. Cole for Director, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency**

Dear Senator Grassley:

Virginia Law Enforcement Sheriffs ("VLES") represents the interests of the sheriffs, deputies, and support staff that provide primary law enforcement services in 86 Virginia localities—most of which are rural, fiscally distressed, and plagued with substance abuse. VLES writes to express its unconditional support for Terrance C. Cole's nomination to serve as Director of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA").

VLES has worked closely over the past few years with Mr. Cole in his capacity as Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In this capacity, Secretary Cole has demonstrated an unprecedented level of accessibility and community engagement. He has always had an open-door policy with our association and speaks to us frankly and with integrity. As Secretary, Mr. Cole personally has visited many of our communities and, while in Richmond, is always only a phone call away. When he commits to something, he follows through. When he has bad news to deliver, he delivers it personally. We believe this community-first approach to be of paramount importance in the leader of any law enforcement agency.

Moreover, we believe Mr. Cole's career in law enforcement preeminently qualifies him for the position of Director of the DEA. He knows firsthand what it means to administer the rule of law in an even-handed and honorable way. Given his experiences, we believe Mr. Cole is ideally suited to lead the DEA.

Our respective jurisdictions are all negatively impacted by illicit narcotics and our agencies deal directly with the myriad consequences resulting therefrom. We trust Mr. Cole's judgment and discretion to take the fight directly to the purveyors of these poisons domestically and abroad for the benefit of all our communities – in Virginia and beyond.

As fellow law enforcement officers, we are proud and distinctly honored to endorse Terrance C. Cole as Director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Richard A. Vaughan – VLES President

*Officers & Board of Directors* ♦ Sheriff Richard Vaughan, President ♦ Sheriff Whit Clark, Vice President  
♦ Major Brandon Epperson, Secretary ♦ Sheriff Bobby Hawkins, Treasurer ♦ Sheriff Blake Andis, Regional Director ♦ Captain Charlie Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Board Member