

July 12, 2026

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Todd W. Blanche as Attorney General of the United States

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are former Department of Justice officials who served across multiple administrations. We write to express our strong and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Todd W. Blanche to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

Todd Blanche's career embodies the American ideal of advancing his career based on merit and hard work. He began his service to the Department of Justice as a paralegal in the Criminal Division and at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York while attending law school at night to support his young family. He rose to become an Assistant United States Attorney in the SDNY's violent-crimes division, where he prosecuted serious offenses for eight years and eventually served as co-chief of that unit, supervising dozens of prosecutors handling cases involving murders, kidnappings, and other violent crimes. This hands-on experience as both a line prosecutor and supervisor gives him an unparalleled understanding of how the Department actually operates—from the streets to headquarters.

His exemplary record as Deputy Attorney General—and now as Acting Attorney General—demonstrates he is the right man for the right time. In that role, he has overseen the day-to-day operations of a Department with more than 100,000 employees across Main Justice, the FBI, DEA, U.S. Marshals, ATF, and 93 U.S. Attorneys' Offices. Under his leadership, the Department has advanced President Trump's core priorities with clarity and resolve: confronting illegal immigration and dismantling the transnational criminal organizations that exploit our borders; combating the fentanyl crisis and violent crime that devastate American communities; and protecting taxpayers through aggressive fraud enforcement. He launched the National Fraud Enforcement Division, which has already driven the recovery of billions of dollars stolen from programs like Medicare and COVID relief, while prioritizing the prosecution of those who prey on American taxpayers.

As Acting Attorney General, Todd Blanche has further proven his ability to deliver results in real time—strengthening border security operations, targeting cartel networks fueling the opioid epidemic, and restoring credibility to the Department by refocusing it on its core mission of impartial justice and public safety rather than political agendas. He has demonstrated an

unwavering commitment to backing the men and women in blue, holding fraudsters accountable, and securing our sovereignty against those who threaten it from within and across our borders.

Todd Blanche understands that the Department's mission is to deliver justice—not to serve political interests or entrenched bureaucracies. He has shown the courage and institutional knowledge to restore focus on public safety, law enforcement support, and the rule of law. His career path—from paralegal to prosecutor to the second-highest position in the Department—gives him a perspective few others possess. He knows what works because he has lived it at every level.

Some of us have worked directly with Todd Blanche and can personally attest to his integrity, his devotion to the Constitution, and his steady leadership under pressure. Others know his well-earned reputation from decades of service inside the Department and his clear commitment to the principles that make America safe and free. We firmly believe the Department of Justice and the Nation will benefit from his continued leadership at the helm.

We urge you in the strongest terms to confirm Todd W. Blanche as the next Attorney General of the United States without delay.

Respectfully, ^[1]

Gary Barnett, Former Acting Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor to the Attorney General

Ketan Bhirud, Former Associate Deputy Attorney General

Rachel Bissex, Former Deputy Chief of Staff & Counselor to the Attorney General

Jonathan D. Brightbill, Former Acting Assistant Attorney General

William A. Burck, Former Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York

James Burnham, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2018-2020), Counselor to the Attorney General (2020)

Adam Candeub, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission

Brendan Chestnut, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy

John V. Coghlan, Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Russell Coleman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky (2017-2021)

Michael Costigan, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Erin Nealy Cox, United States Attorney, Northern District of Texas (2017-2021)

Stephen J. Cox, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2020-21), Deputy Associate Attorney General (2017-20)

John B. Daukas, Former Principal Deputy and Acting Associate Attorney General for Civil Rights

Ethan P. Davis, Former Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division

Mike Davis, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia (2006)

Hon. Eric S. Dreiband, Former Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division

D. Michael Dunavant, United States Attorney, Western District of Tennessee (2017-2021); (2025-present)

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney, Eastern District of Kentucky (2017-2021)

Kellen Dwyer, Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Assistant United States Attorney

Prim. F. Escalona, former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs

Jeffrey Favitta, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mark R. Filip, U.S. District Court Judge, Northern District of Illinois; Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

Michael A. Fragoso, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2018-2019)

Noel J. Francisco, Solicitor General of the United States, 2017-2020

Matthew Galeotti, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division; Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of New York

Timothy A. Garrison, United States Attorney, Western District of Missouri (2018-2021)

John M. Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General & Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division (2017-2019)

Mark Grider, Deputy Associate Attorney General, Office of the Associate Attorney General

Jeffrey A. Hall, Senior Counsel to the Associate Attorney General (2017-2019)

Gene Hamilton, Counselor to the Attorney General

Sarah M. Harris, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel (2017-2019)

Justin Herdman, United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio (2017-2021)

John W. Huber, United States Attorney, District of Utah (2015-2021)

Drew Hudson, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (2017-2019)

D. Michael Hurst, Jr., United States Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi (2017-2021)

Darlene L. Hutchinson, Former Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (2017-19)

Phil E. Keith, Director of the US Department of Justice COPS Office

Dean M. Kueter, Jr., Former Executive Director, President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice

Hannah Kunasek, Former Special Assistant to the Attorney General

Hon. William K. Lane III, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division

David F. Lasseter, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Legislative Affairs

William R. Levi, Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor to the Attorney General (2020); Counselor to the Attorney General (2018-19)

Matt Lloyd, Principle Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs

Maria Chapa Lopez, United States Attorney, Middle District of Florida (2018-2021)

James D. Mandolfo, Former Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Florida; Chief of Staff Criminal Division, DOJ

Marc Marie, Senior Counsel, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Taylor McConkie, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-2021)

David Metcalf, Counselor to the Attorney General

Christopher G. Michel, Chief of Staff & Counselor to the Attorney General (2020)

Josh J. Minkler, United States Attorney, Southern District of Indiana (2014-2020)

Chad Mizelle, Chief of Staff & Acting Associate Attorney General

John Moran, Former Deputy Chief of Staff & Counselor to the Attorney General

Ryan Newman, Counselor to the Attorney General

Cheri Nolan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Edward C. O'Callaghan, Former Acting Deputy Attorney General; Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General

Brian Pandya, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-21)

James Hamilton Percival II, Senior Counsel

Ian Prior, Deputy Director of Public Affairs (2017-18)

Brendan Quigley, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York (2012-2019)

Brian C. Rabbitt, Former Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor to the Attorney General; Former Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

Douglas B. Rathbun, Counsel, Office of Legal Policy; Assistant Chief, Antitrust Division

Reed D. Rubinstein, Deputy Associate Attorney General

Paul E. Salamanca, Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Prerak Shah, Former Acting United States Attorney, Northern District of Texas (2021); First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas (2020-21); Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2020); Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-20)

Matthew J. Sheehan, Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General (2018); Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General (2017-2018)

Andrew Smith, Senior Advisor to the Attorney General

Gregg N. Sofer, Former United States Attorney, Western District of Texas and Counselor to the Attorney General of the United States

Eric Soskin, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General

Theo Stamos, Former Department of Justice State and Local Law Enforcement Coordinator

Scott G. Stewart, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2017-2021)

Dennis Stoika, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

G. Zachary Terwilliger, Associate Deputy Attorney General

Jay Town, Former United States Attorney, Northern District of Alabama

Beth A. Williams, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2017-2020)

Theo Wold, Former Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy

Jeffrey H. Wood, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division (2017-18)

[1] Permission to include each signatory's name received via electronic submission.