



The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

The Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) is pleased to express our robust support for the nomination of Kashyap "Kash" Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Our association, representing a significant portion of the hotel industry in the United States, believes that Mr. Patel's unique background and experience will serve our nation well in this critical role.

Economic Impact of Asian American Hotel Owners. Our AAHOA Members own more than 60% of all hotels in the United States, contributing significantly to the national economy. With over 36,000 hotels managed by our members, we employ more than 1.1 million individuals, contributing over 1.5% to the U.S. GDP and injecting over \$50 billion annually into the economy through various expenditures. The economic success of Asian American hoteliers over the past 40 years, predominantly from Gujarat, India, exemplifies the American dream. It showcases a community that has transformed from modest beginnings into major players in the hospitality industry. This success story is not just about economic growth but also about the cultural integration and entrepreneurial spirit our members bring to America.

Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts in Hotels. As hotel owners, we are acutely aware of the challenges posed by human trafficking within our industry. It is estimated that a significant number of trafficking incidents occur in hotels across America. In response, we have taken the lead with anti-human trafficking educational training and certification programs for our AAHOA hotelier owners and their employees. We have supported anti-human trafficking legislation, and worked with organizations such as BEST (Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking) to raise awareness and fight this scourge in our society. The FBI plays a pivotal role in combating these crimes through investigations and enforcement. Under Mr. Patel's leadership, we believe there will be a renewed focus on these issues, leveraging his background in counterterrorism and justice to enhance the FBI's effectiveness in tackling human trafficking.

Kash Patel's Historic Nomination. Kash Patel's nomination marks a historic moment as he would be the first Asian American to serve as Director of the FBI. His career, ranging from public defense to high-level counterterrorism roles, particularly his service in the National Security Council and with the House Intelligence Committee, equips him with the necessary acumen and perspective to lead the FBI into addressing modern threats with both integrity and innovation.

We firmly believe that Kash Patel's leadership will not only continue but elevate the FBI's role in safeguarding our nation's security while addressing the nuanced challenges within industries like ours.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We urge you to support Mr. Patel's confirmation to ensure that the FBI continues to serve with the highest standards of integrity and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Laura Lee Blake
President & CEO