March 5, 2013

## Via Fax: 202.224.9516

## RECEIVED MAR 0 8 2013

Fredrikson

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

## Re: Nomination of B. Todd Jones as ATF Director

Dear Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request your support for the appointment of B. Todd Jones as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

I am a senior attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., having served as the firm's President and as Board Chair from 1997 through 2008. During my tenure as Board Chair, I became acquainted with B. Todd Jones when he was a partner at Robins Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. Our two firms worked together with other Twin Cities law firms and corporate counsel to launch Twin Cities Diversity in Practice ("TCDIP"), a collaborative undertaking by Twin Cities law firms and corporate counsel to attract, recruit, retain and promote diverse attorneys within our Twin Cities legal community. Todd and I become early leaders of TCDIP, serving together on its Executive Committee for several years and also serving as co-chairs for a period of time prior to Todd's appointment as U.S. Attorney.

Todd and I together faced the challenges required to take TCDIP from conception to viability. Todd's leadership skills and leadership style, as well as his insight and personal touch, were essential to both the early survival of this organization as well as to its eventual emergence as an effective diversity champion in our legal community. Todd was instrumental in recruiting the first two Executive Directors, the second of whom still leads the organization. He was able to foster constructive and respectful discussion and creative solutions to many difficult and controversial issues. Most of all, he was practical. Multi-firm diversity organizations are prone to flounder or become marginalized due to the underlying competitiveness of their members and also because of deeply-held differences about the proper scope of "affirmative action" in general and about the systems and processes that are appropriate to achieve the objective of enhancing diversity. Todd was masterful in guiding TCDIP to steer around such controversies in order to identify and implement practical collaborative actions that could "move the dial" on diversity.

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In conclusion, B. Todd Jones is an outstanding leader and deserves your support for Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Sincerely yours,

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