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John J. Choi

April 4, 2013

Letter Via Facsimile (202-224-9516) and US MAIL

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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

With great enthusiasm, I write this letter in strong support of President Obama's nomination of B. Todd Jones to become the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF").

In January 2011, I was sworn in as the Ramsey County Attorney. Minnesota law recognizes three levels of crime (misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and felonies), with felonies being the most serious of these crimes. My many responsibilities as County Attorney include the prosecution of all adult felony criminal cases that are committed in Ramsey County, which includes the City of Saint Paul, and is the second most populous county in the State of Minnesota. In 2012, my office charged approximately 3,055 adult felony criminal cases.

Since becoming County Attorney, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Todd in his capacity as U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota on many matters related to public safety. For example, our respective offices have also worked very well together in strategic and supportive ways on important cases ranging from dangerous career criminals to human sexual trafficking. I also appreciate his office's willingness to utilize the Hobbs Act (18 U.S.C. § 1951) in appropriate armed robbery cases that resulted in meaningful public safety outcomes for my community.

Moreover, immediately upon my taking office, Todd graciously reached out to me with a genuine and much appreciated open-ended offer of professional assistance and a spirit of collaboration. I

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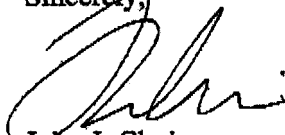
have frequently accepted Todd's offer for which I am ever grateful since his support and wisdom have enriched my experience as the chief prosecutor for Ramsey County. I believe Todd has a great ability to work well with others in a collaborative fashion and with sincere intentions.

I am also comforted to know that with Todd I have a strong and trusted federal partner who understands and respects the roles of county attorneys. For example, the 87 county attorneys in the State of Minnesota are primarily responsible for the prosecution of felony crimes committed in the state. I particularly believe that crimes committed within our local communities by locally-based offenders should ideally be prosecuted by county attorneys, unless a compelling reason requires otherwise. I greatly appreciate and applaud Todd's recognition of this fact and his leadership around re-calibrating what cases are appropriate for federal prosecution in the context of the State's important role in enforcing its own criminal laws.

In conclusion, Todd has been a stalwart leader both in his commitment to public safety for the people of Minnesota and in his unwavering support of my county attorney colleagues throughout the state. His extraordinary leadership skills will well serve the needs and mission of a vitally important federal law enforcement agency like ATF. He is in my opinion a truly gifted public servant.

I wholeheartedly and respectfully urge the prompt consent of the U.S. Senate in the nomination of B. Todd Jones as Director of the ATF. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John J. Choi
Ramsey County Attorney