



**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF  
BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES**

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RECEIVED JUN 11 2013

June 11, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) is an organization of approximately 2,500 primarily African-American law enforcement CEOs and command level officials who are committed to improving the law enforcement service in this nation, writes this letter in support of the confirmation Mr. B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Since his appointment as acting director in August, 2011, Mr. Jones has brought stability to the ATF and that has allowed the bureau to focus on its mission, "to protect our communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products".

It is disturbing that this agency has been without a permanent director for six years and that staffing for the bureau has been less than optimal. But despite these encumbrances, this former Marine marches on. Mr. Jones has made relationship building a priority and the agencies work with state and local agencies and in training and technical assistance is greatly appreciated. He has accomplished these things while still serving as US Attorney for the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Jones is a remarkable leader and the right person to lead the bureau. Throughout Mr. Jones career, he has proven to be an effective partner to law enforcement. With this experience, we believe him to be well-qualified to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). We look forward to continuing to work with him as the permanent director on a broad range of law enforcement and public safety issues. It is our hope that the Senate will confirm Mr. Jones promptly to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Akers', with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joseph Akers  
Interim Executive Director