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Major County Sheriffs of America

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July 10, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee United States Senate 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), an association of elected Sheriffs representing over 100 million Americans, I write to you in support of the nomination of Christopher A. Wray to serve as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The MCSA Executive Board recently had an opportunity to discuss with Mr. Wray some of our concerns regarding critical and high-profile challenges and issues confronting our members. In particular, we raised issues related to information sharing, violent crime, technological and non-technological barriers to access, leadership training, and the importance of an honest and candid working relationship with local law enforcement.

Since 9/11 the FBI has transformed into a premier counterterrorism law enforcement agency. After his confirmation by unanimous consent, Mr. Wray's served as the Assistant Attorney General where he effectively oversaw the Department's Criminal Division which at the time, included the counterterrorism section. Mr. Wray worked closely with Department leadership, Director Mueller, and other senior FBI officials responding to the 9/11 attacks and restructuring the Department to confront and prevent terrorism. While significant coordination challenges continue between the FBI and state and local law enforcement, progress has clearly been made and Mr. Wray has demonstrated that he is deeply committed to advancing the Bureau's working relationship with local law enforcement. Through our candid dialogue, we are confident Mr. Wray will actively seek our input and give serious consideration to our comments and recommendations.

As elected officials dedicated to public safety, we value experience, aptitude and expertise. These qualities are particularly important given the obligation of a leader to instill confidence in the ranks, strengthen morale,

and stimulate performance. Mr. Wray's reputation and experience within the Department of Justice and the private sector demonstrate that he is uniquely qualified to serve as the 8th Director of the FBI.

As President of the MCSA, we thank you for your attention to this matter. The MCSA stands ready to assist should we be afforded that opportunity.

Very Respectfully,

Sandra Hutchens

President, Major County Sheriffs of America

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Sheriff-Coroner, Orange County Sheriff's Department, CA