



June 10, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

As co-chairs of a coalition of over 975 mayors from across the country, we are deeply concerned about the need to reduce gun violence in the United States and the threat that illegal gun trafficking poses to our communities. We urge the United States Senate to confirm B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as soon as possible.

This critical public safety agency is in great need of an effective permanent director, after having been leaderless for seven years. During that time, some 80,000 Americans have been murdered with guns. The vacuum of permanent leadership at ATF has prevented the agency from more fully engaging in its oversight responsibilities and cracking down on traffickers who supply criminals with guns.

A 2009 report by the Government Accountability Office found that the enforcement of existing gun laws by federal agencies, including ATF, has been profoundly hampered by insufficient resources. Major law enforcement organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have called for more resources to support ATF's enforcement programs. We believe Todd Jones will serve as an effective leader who will bring more resources to the agency while ensuring all current resources are utilized judiciously.

B. Todd Jones brings the right skills and experience for the job. He currently serves as the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, an office he has held since June 2009, and also held from 1998 until January 2001. From 1983 to 1989, Acting Director Jones served in the Marine Corps—as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a judge advocate—and he subsequently served in Operation Desert Storm. He also has worked as a lawyer in private practice and has served as an assistant U.S. Attorney. Jones has been the Acting Director of ATF since September 2011 and we have seen his commitment to reforms and to a renewed mission for the agency.

Given ATF's critical role in fighting crime, it is troubling that Congress has failed to give the agency the leader or resources it needs. One area we hope will improve under the leadership of Acting Director Jones is dealer inspections. Although ATF is permitted by law to inspect each

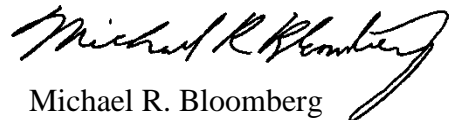
licensed firearms dealer once per year, the agency set a more modest goal of inspecting dealers once every five years. Even worse, due to limited resources, it has only succeeded in inspecting 58 percent of dealers within the five-year timeframe. In addition, we know that in 2011, inspections of 20 percent of licensed dealers revealed over 18,000 firearms missing from licensed dealers' inventories. We hope Mr. Jones is confirmed and given the resources he needs to help gun dealers better track lost and stolen guns from their inventory.

Without strong leadership, ATF will remain hamstrung by inadequate resources and weakened by the efforts of special interests to gut the agency. We urge the Senate to conduct a careful and swift review of Acting Director Jones' nomination. The American people cannot afford to wait any longer for federal leadership in the fight to keep our communities safe from gun violence.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City

Cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members of the U.S. Senate