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2-13-2013

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

Sent Via Fax: 202-224-9516

Re: Nomination of B. Todd Jones as ATF Director

Dear Chairman:

"Public safety and law enforcement should be above politics," then-Gov. Tim Pawlenty once told me. "They're too important to the citizens of Minnesota."

And, I believe, public safety and law enforcement are just as important to the people of this great land of ours. They should be above politics on a national level.

As a special agent and administrator with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for more than 30 years, and as Gov. Pawlenty's commissioner of the Department of Public Safety for seven years, I have seen a lot of US Attorneys come and go. And, in my view, Todd Jones has been one of the two or three best US Attorneys I have ever worked with here in Minnesota. Period.

I first met Todd in the early 1990s when he was a line prosecutor for US Attorney Tom Heffelfinger. I was a narcotics investigator for BCA for a very long time. Todd was one of those rare young prosecutors who was willing to learn from seasoned agents. Many of us had years of experience running street-level investigations, collecting evidence and testifying in federal court.

Todd chose to solicit our views and advice to ensure he brought the strongest cases possible to federal court — and put bad guys away. In fact, as Todd's confidence and legal sophistication grew, BCA agents actively sought out his availability to work on cases together.

Investigators at BCA, the city police departments and county sheriffs offices had it good during the Clinton Administration when Todd was US Attorney. Violent crime involving gangs of all stripes was a major focus of federal prosecutions

back then. We worked with the AUSAs in Todd's office to win a host of successful federal firearms, narcotics, trafficking and conspiracy cases.

Some street cops may well have expected those days to continue when Todd began his second stint as US Attorney in 2009. But the world had changed, as had Todd's priorities as federal prosecutor.

With limited resources in his office, Todd strategically chose to collaborate more intensely with county prosecutors. They would tackle more narcotics cases the feds once pursued, freeing up AUSAs to prosecute the most violent of violent offenders — the worst of the worst — as well as incredibly time-consuming cases involving white collar crime, financial fraud and terrorism. I can't argue with those priorities.

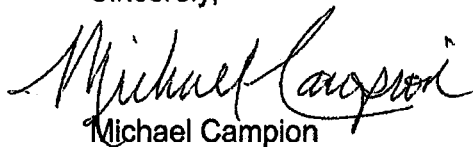
As acting director at ATF, Todd is working hard to right a troubled ship. Todd has always done what's right and has stood up alongside those with the high professional standards and commitment to the law.

As someone who has spent a career at the state and local level in the Criminal Justice system, I know that Todd Jones has always been a leader. He knows how to motivate, foster professionalism and promote collaboration. He leads by example. And I believe he is a man of great integrity.

Additionally, I believe Todd has the courage to stand up on the national stage against those who don't want enforcement of existing laws.

I urge the Committee's approval of Todd Jones as the director of ATF.

Sincerely,


Michael Campion

