



NATIONAL FUSION CENTER ASSOCIATION

Helping To Protect America

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Executive Board of the National Fusion Center Association (NFCA), representing the 79 state and major urban area fusion centers and the over 3,000 public safety employees working across the National Network of Fusion Centers, to offer our support for the nomination of Mr. Christopher Wray to be the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Fusion centers were created by state and local public safety executives and state governors in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, to assist in the identification, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery of terrorist acts and other major criminal activity that threatens public safety and the lives of every citizen in our country. The National Network of Fusion Centers (NNFC) has worked closely with the FBI since the inception of fusion centers. Key to the success of the NNFC is collaboration between all levels of government and the private sector. A strong leader at the FBI who understands the importance of building coalitions that routinely connect all of our partners is an essential part of that collaboration.

The leadership of the NFCA Executive Board had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Wray regarding his views on fusion centers, as well as public safety and private sector collaboration. We discussed information sharing and criminal threat identification challenges that fusion centers and the FBI currently face. We also discussed the building blocks that have been developed through FBI's Enhanced Engagement Initiative (EEI) to strengthen our nationwide criminal threat identification, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery capabilities through the NNFC. We are impressed with Mr. Wray's understanding of the threats and challenges he would be taking on if he is confirmed to lead the FBI. Among the major challenges today is the balance of lawful access to digital communications and privacy in the many dimensions of the "Going Dark" problem, and obstruction of access to publicly posted criminal threats on the Internet. We are also impressed with his desire to evaluate and support the FBI's fusion center engagement strategy.

Mr. Wray is a leader that understands the criminal justice system as he served as head of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Wray also understands working in the private sector as an attorney. Having worked in both the public and the private sector, we believe that Mr. Wray may be able to mitigate some of the challenges we currently face while enhancing the FBI's public safety partnerships that have been built over the past 15 years.

Thank you very much for your consideration and please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Mike L. Sena
NFCA President
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