



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

SHERIFF KIERAN DONAHUE
President

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking-member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write today on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the 3,081 elected Sheriffs serving our nation's security interests.

The law enforcement policies of the last four years have undermined the rule of law and burdened our nation with great risk and vulnerability. Equally detrimental are the border policies that permit unchecked access to our homeland. These two factors have sadly but predictably granted domestic and international criminals unprecedented opportunity to victimize or endanger the citizens and residents of our nation. As a result, countless communities across America are under siege. Through the exploitation of these vulnerabilities, complex criminal and terror schemes are taking hold and flourishing. The blind spot created by inadequate border control and law enforcement policies has facilitated criminal activity that falls under multiple jurisdictions and therefore demands a robust and coordinated response.

For the last four years, law enforcement leadership has been denied direct unfiltered access to the President. As a result, there is a perception within law enforcement and the public that our national leaders do not comprehend the ground truth about criminal trends and lack the will, policy tools, and resources to thwart the criminal activities undermining the security of our nation.

Sheriffs nationwide want to work more closely with our federal partners to maximize effectiveness in combating the unprecedented infiltration of dangerous Mexican cartels, Transcontinental Criminal Organizations (TCO's), hostile intelligence and terrorism practitioners as well as individual criminals who flout the rule of law.

Sheriffs, as elected law enforcement officials, are uniquely duty bound to respond to the concerns of their constituents, irrespective of creed or political affiliation. This access-to-advise means their incumbency depends on listening to everyone. Sheriffs who do not respond to a sector of their constituency can be removed—by the people. Equally, our federal law enforcement hierarchy, armed with knowledge gained through local collaboration, must be heard

by the decisionmakers in Washington. In this time of uncertainty, it is critical the Federal Bureau of Investigation be led by someone who has the complete confidence of the President.

The NSA is heartened that President-elect Donald Trump selected Kash Patel to serve as the next FBI Director. His resume reflects the credentials, skills, temperament, commitment, and experience for this critical position. Mr. Patel's service will undoubtedly prioritize the restoration of confidence in the Bureau through increased transparency, integrity, collaboration, and commitment to excellence. Mr. Patel promised NSA – if confirmed – his unwavering dedication to working hand in glove with local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement at the rank-and-file and leadership levels. His commitment to the reciprocity of access-to-advise is essential to combating the most serious security and policing challenges ahead. We are certain Mr. Patel's engagement will result in vital and effective partnerships nationwide to protect communities large and small.

We are pleased to give our enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Patel's nomination to be the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and urge the Committee hold hearings expeditiously. We believe there will be broad support for Mr. Patel and we look forward to his swift confirmation by the full United States Senate.

Very Respectfully,



Sheriff Kieran Donahue
Canyon County, ID
President
National Sheriffs' Association

Cc: POTUS-elect
Senator John Thune, Majority Leader
Senator Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director/CEO