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# AMERICANS FOR **RESPONSIBLE** SOLUTIONS

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July 30, 2013

Dear Senator:

The consistent and effective enforcement of our nation's existing gun laws is a priority that has long won the approval of a wide swath of elected officials, Democrats and Republicans alike. Yet, since 2006, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), which exists for that very task, has been denied the leadership it needs to ensure our laws protect our families from gun crime. Those seven years have seen five acting or interim directors, the massacres at Virginia Tech, Tucson, Aurora and Newtown, further restrictions on BATFE's activities, and over 80,000 Americans murdered with guns.

This week, the U.S. Senate will have the opportunity to give BATFE a critical tool for the execution of its public safety responsibilities by confirming B. Todd Jones as its director. Americans for Responsible Solutions, a voice of over 500,000 Americans who support gun rights and responsible gun laws, respectfully urges you and your Senate colleagues to vote to confirm Mr. Jones as BATFE Director.

Not only is it vital that the Senate act to provide leadership at BATFE, but it is important that they confirm the current nominee. Mr. Jones has already been confirmed by the Senate twice, provided outstanding contributions as Minnesota's U.S. Attorney, and served with distinction as BATFE's acting director. His leadership skills, honed as both an infantry officer and attorney in the Marine Corps, will give the agency the energy and focus it needs to use its limited resources to stop criminals and save lives.

In his two years as acting director, Mr. Jones has worked to orient enforcement toward assisting local police with efforts to prevent violent gun crime and stop illegal guns. Recently, he has overseen BATFE's responses to the Boston bombing and the Texas fertilizer plant explosion. The brave and patriotic agents of BATFE who risk their lives to reduce gun violence and stop illegal guns deserve to have Mr. Jones confirmed as their full-time leader.

Only a confirmed director can most effectively help BATFE enforce this country's existing gun laws. The Senate should vote to for B. Todd Jones as director because our nation's top law enforcement agencies deserve consistent, strong leadership. One of the BATFE's primary responsibilities is keeping guns away from dangerous people, and in our view, a vote against Mr. Jones' confirmation is akin to a vote against safer communities. Please vote to confirm Mr. Jones as BATFE director.

Sincerely,

Pia Carusone  
Executive Director  
Americans for Responsible Solutions