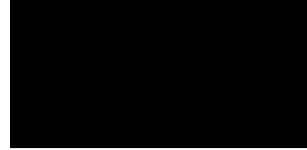


Ralph Boelter



The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Minority Member  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

I am writing in support of the nomination of B. Todd Jones as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). I served as the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI's Minneapolis Division from 2007 to 2011, the last 20 or so months of which Todd, as U.S Attorney, and I enjoyed a close and productive working relationship. During that time, Todd and I met on many occasions, often over coffee, to discuss the enforcement priorities of each of our offices and how best to align our efforts to enable us to achieve our critical objectives together. Todd was attentive to my views and often solicited my input on a broad range of work issues. Moreover, he was an outstanding partner for me and my division during critical periods, such as when a group of young Somali-American men traveled from the Minneapolis area to the Horn of Africa to join al Shabaab, an Al Qaeda affiliated extremist group hostile to the United States. He was a strong supporter of the FBI's investigative strategy in that matter and he actively led the prosecutive efforts as well as his office's public outreach during and after the investigation.

In addition, Todd's support was instrumental in my office's successful effort to stand up the Twin Cities Safe Streets Violent Crime Task Force in 2010.

As the FBI SAC in Minnesota, I have observed Todd interact with federal and local colleagues, and citizens, in numerous settings and I have never seen him engage in a manner that was not absolutely professional.

I believe, based on my substantial experience working with Todd, and my observations of him during my SAC tenure, that he be confirmed to serve as the Director of the ATF.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. S. Boelter", written over the typed name.

Ralph S. Boelter