

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

Dear Chairman,

I am respectfully composing this letter in order to request that you confirm B Todd Jones to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

I would first like to tell a little about myself. I was employed as an ATF Special Agent for just shy of 25 years with my final 4 years being the Resident Agent in Charge of the ATF West Palm Beach Field Office. I retired in December of 2011. I was a police officer before my employment with ATF for 7 years and I currently am employed as a Detective in the Violent Crime Division of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in West Palm Beach Florida. During my tenure at ATF I also instructed and developed courses for ATF in the areas of firearms identification, firearms imports and firearms trafficking. I also am a firearms collector and firearms instructor. I have been the case agent of all types of investigations from the career offenders in possession of firearms to large scale domestic and international firearms trafficking investigations.

In March 2011 I was asked to go the ATF Phoenix Field Division to assist in the evaluation and restructuring of that Division due to the Fast and Furious Investigation. Frankly I was shocked at what I saw happened in that investigation but I was not surprised. This was the Perfect Storm: out of control firearms trafficking to Mexican Drug Cartels, failed ATF leadership, lack of training and allowing the U.S. Attorney's Office to make both tactical decisions as well as overreaching investigative decisions. The ATF failure of this operation can be traced to the lack of a true leader which causes any agency to lose focus. In my time at ATF I have witnessed a Director appointed for his political ties who embarrassed ATF and a great candidate for Director nominated but never confirmed along with lack luster nominees sent to ATF just to have someone there. So where is the leadership, direction and focus ?

I have met B Todd Jones and found him to be a real genuine penitent man who is a true leader. He did not ask to be the Acting Director of ATF but it is in his DNA to do the job to the best of his ability. This is clearly shown through his choice of Deputy Director Thomas Brandon whom I worked with closely in Phoenix. Mr. Jones already has made many changes one of which is training and the development of training. I still work closely with ATF and have spoken to many agents who also praise B Todd Jones and agree with me that ATF needs a Director and that Director should be Acting Director B Todd Jones.

Please feel free to contact me at my email address: [REDACTED] or on my cell phone [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Stephen J Barbarini  
Detective PSEO/Ret. ATF RAC