

CITY OF MOUNTAINS
HEART OF THE NATION



KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI

Office of the Mayor

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February 20th, 2013

RECEIVED FEB 20 2013

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

Sent Via Fax: 202-224-9516

Re: Nomination of B. Todd Jones as ATF Director

Dear Chairman Leahy:

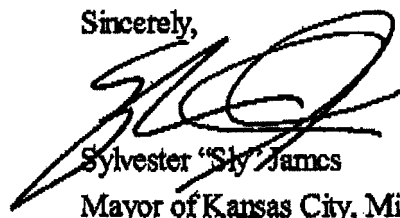
Effective government is dependent upon the strengths of those who serve. Byron Todd Jones brings many personal and professional strengths to the service of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). As you know, the ATF serves an extremely important function in protecting the public from a variety of potential threats. Bold, thoughtful agency leadership is an absolute necessity to ensure ATF is being the most effective at protecting public welfare. I wholeheartedly believe Mr. Jones' leadership will be invaluable to the agency in the coming years, particularly as Americans debate and reflect upon the type of society we wish to live in with regard to gun regulation.

The ATF has a wide range of responsibilities, requiring strategic focus, transparency, data-driven results, and unwavering professionalism. These standards are set at the top of any organization, whether it be a government agency, nonprofit entity, or corporation. Furthermore, an agency like ATF has to balance many different goals, interests, and programs. Mr. Jones' experience balancing two separate but related roles in service of country, one as Acting Director of ATF and the other as United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, make him the perfect role model and leader for this type of organization.

I have known Mr. Jones for 30 years. We are law school classmates and friends. I know his family and I know what type of man he is. He has compiled an impressive legal career and record of public service. Undoubtedly, many individuals will tell you that he is the consummate professional. I am honored to also tell you that his character is as strong as his resume, his dedication to his personal moral values is as strong as his commitment to professional excellence, and his love of country runs as deep as his intellect. I am both honored and proud to be his friend.

The ATF is at a crossroads due largely to the fact that Americans are examining the agency with greater scrutiny now, more than ever, because of the hot button topic of gun control. At a time like this, when political discourse can be inflammatory and unproductive, the ATF needs to remain focused on its critical mission of ensuring public safety. I believe that the agency is more than capable of doing this under the adept direction of Byron Todd Jones. I request that you favorably consider his nomination as permanent Director of the ATF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sly James', with a stylized, overlapping flourish above the name.

Sylvester "Sly" James
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri