



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

We write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Mr. B. Todd Jones to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Mr. Jones is an outstanding candidate who has served Minnesotans and the American people with distinction throughout his career.

Mr. Jones has provided effective leadership to renew professionalism at ATF headquarters and field offices during his tenure as Acting Director. We believe Mr. Jones' constructive efforts should be sustained at ATF, especially as Congress works to prevent gun violence. Mr. Jones will provide leadership on this issue that will make our communities safer. Unfortunately, since 2006 they have been without a permanent director. We strongly support the Senate moving forward to ensure strong leadership and accountability within this important law enforcement agency.

Many of us have known Mr. Jones for years and we can attest to Mr. Jones' selfless commitment to our nation and excellence in public service. As a Marine, U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, and now Acting Director of the ATF, he has consistently proven himself an outstanding leader who is widely respected.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School, Mr. Jones earned a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. Rather than joining the JAG, he chose the infantry, serving as a weapons platoon commander and rifle company commander in Korea and Okinawa before returning to Camp Pendleton to be a judge advocate.

He later served under U.S. Attorney Tom Heffelfinger, an appointee of President George H.W. Bush. As Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Minnesota, Mr. Jones strengthened the prosecution team and worked with local and federal investigators to put drug dealers and money launderers behind bars. In 1998 President Clinton nominated him to serve as Minnesota's U.S. Attorney. Following Senate confirmation, he served in that role until January 2001.

President Obama appointed Mr. Jones as the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota in 2009. In this position he has strengthened ties with county attorneys and law enforcement officials throughout the state so they could deploy resources wisely. This collaboration has permitted the prosecution of violent offenders and tough cases involving terrorism, financial fraud, and white collar crime.

We can't think of a better candidate to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Mr. Jones has demonstrated sound judgment and strong leadership and would be a distinguished Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. We urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Ellison".

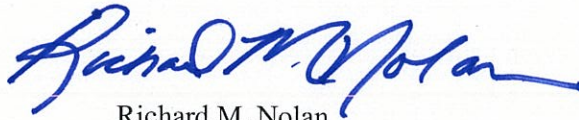
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Walz".

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Nolan".

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress