June 10, 2013

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:

The undersigned Presidentially Appointed United States Attorneys (“U.S. Attorneys”) of the Department of Justice write to strongly support the confirmation of B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”).

In our roles as U.S. Attorneys, we are the chief federal law enforcement officials of our various Districts. As such, our responsibilities require enforcement of federal laws, assistance to our state and local partners in their law enforcement efforts, and implementation of policies of the Department of Justice. We are responsible for developing the strategies that will meet the needs of our Districts, including gun prosecution strategies and strategies for reducing violent crime in our communities. All of us are acutely aware of the urgent need for permanent leadership at ATF, and we believe that B. Todd Jones is highly qualified to lead the men and women of the agency.

During his tenure as Acting Director, Mr. Jones has made remarkable strides in refocusing the efforts of the ATF. He has been fully engaged, immersed himself in all aspects of the agency, and used his experience as a federal prosecutor to maximize the efforts of ATF’s daily operations.

In addition to working with Mr. Jones in his role as Acting Director of ATF, we also have vast experience working with him in his roles as United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota and Chair of the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee (“AGAC”) of U.S. Attorneys. Mr. Jones was an effective Chair of the AGAC and was a strong voice for our community within the Department of Justice. This was to be expected as, throughout his tenure as U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, Mr. Jones has been a true leader within the broader United States
Attorney community. In fact, for many of us, not only has Mr. Jones been a respected colleague, he has also been a mentor.

Mr. Jones’s commitment to federal law enforcement and the communities of our nation has been a priority throughout his life and career. He is a former Marine, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and twice appointed U.S. Attorney; the United States could not find an individual who is better suited or more qualified to lead this agency which is so vital to assisting U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in carrying out our law enforcement duties.

We respectfully recommend that the Senate Judiciary Committee support the nomination of Mr. Jones to serve as the next Director of ATF. He is highly qualified for the position, has an unimpeachable reputation among his colleagues, and is committed to the citizens of this nation. Mr. Jones will effectively and efficiently lead the men and women of the ATF and ensure that the mission of reducing gun violence in our communities is a priority.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/
JOYCE WHITE VANCE
ALABAMA, NORTHERN
KENYEN RAY BROWN
ALABAMA, SOUTHERN
KAREN L. LOEFFLER
ALASKA
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ARIZONA
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CONNER ELDRIDGE
ARKANSAS, WESTERN
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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SALLY QUILLIAN YATES
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