



**Judge Louis J. Freeh, Former Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman

Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member

Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

December 20, 2016

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Senator Feinstein:

I am very delighted to add my strong recommendation in support of my friend and former colleague, Senator Jeff Sessions, who has been designated by President-Elect Donald Trump to be Attorney General of the United States. I have known Jeff since 1989 when we worked together as fellow prosecutors on one of the most important civil rights cases investigated and prosecuted by the United States Department of Justice, in conjunction with the State of Alabama. Our paths crossed again when I served as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (1993-2001), and Senator Sessions continued his distinguished public service in Washington, DC, and as a member of your Judiciary Committee.

I have served and interacted with Senator Sessions for over 25 years, and have always been greatly impressed with his commitment to the rule of law, his fair and balanced prosecutorial judgment, and his personal dedication to protecting civil rights. Most importantly, I can attest to his unwavering personal integrity and devotion to public service. As a federal and state prosecutor for over 17 years, with hands-on experience gained only on the 'front lines' by career professionals, combined with his fair and balanced good judgment and integrity, I believe that Jeff will be an outstanding Attorney General for the Nation.

In 1989, federal Judge Robert Vance of the Eleventh Circuit and NAACP leader Robbie Robinson were murdered by separate mail bombings in Alabama and Georgia, respectively. These horrific assassinations, together with additional attempted bombings and racist letter threats of more killings and mayhem, had a devastating impact on the entire administration of justice across the country, particularly in Alabama and Georgia. Every federal judge in the Circuit received death threats from the bomber and all were placed under US Marshal protection. Similarly, the entire civil rights leadership in the southeast United States was victimized by fear of more threatened, terrorist attacks. Then Attorney General Richard Thornburg assigned me to the case and one of the first fellow prosecutors I met was then US Attorney Jeff Sessions, serving in the Southern District of Alabama. Jeff and his office were key decision-makers in formulating and implementing the investigative strategy which ultimately led to the arrest and conviction of Walter Moody for these murders. Throughout our work together, I was struck with Jeff's fierce determination to solve these civil rights murders, which so gravely impacted the rule of law and the guarantee of civil rights in America. After I became FBI director and Jeff was the Alabama Attorney General, we again collaborated together and Moody was tried and sentenced under the Alabama capital offense statutes for murder.

As FBI director, I was later privileged to work with you and your Senate colleagues, including Senator Sessions. As I observed and worked with Jeff on a broad variety of justice-related matters (both criminal and civil), he was always totally prepared, accessible and willing to consider all aspects of a complicated issue before deciding. When he did make decisions, they were always fair and clearly the product of much thought and reflection. In sum, it was a privilege to work with Senator Sessions and his Senate staff during my 8 years as director. I have great respect and affection for him. Very importantly, I can also say that the men and women (AUSAs, FBI Agents, Alabama State Troopers and Sheriffs) who served with Jeff during his 17-year career as a prosecutor, share my feelings of respect and admiration.

I am very pleased to give the Committee my very highest personal and profession recommendations for Jeff's confirmation as Attorney General.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis Freeh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Louis J. Freeh

CC: Senator Jeff Sessions