



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

SHERIFF DAVID MAHONEY
President

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 205

Re: Letter in Support of U.S. Associate Attorney General Nominee Vanita Gupta

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Thank you for all of the important work done by the Senate Judiciary Committee to support law enforcement, promote community trust, and protect our communities.

I am writing this letter to express my unqualified support for the President's nominee for Associate Attorney General, Vanita Gupta.

I have known and worked with Ms. Gupta for several years, and have been extraordinarily impressed by her seriousness, her honesty, and her capacity to engage in fruitful and productive dialogue regarding policing and criminal justice. I have served as a professional law enforcement officer for over 40 years, and I am currently serving my fourth term as Dane County Sheriff in Wisconsin (after first being elected in November 2006 to become the 52nd Dane County Sheriff). It has been one of my greatest honors to serve the people of Dane County, and I recognize how important honesty, transparency, and trust are when doing the work of protecting and serving the public.

Ms. Gupta shares these values and exhibits them on a daily basis and in our discussions she has sought to earnestly understand and appreciate the work of sheriffs throughout the country. We have discussed how jails are filled with individuals who face mental health and substance use disorders, and how the burden for addressing those issues often fall on sheriffs. We have discussed common efforts in building trust, good will and mutual respect within our communities. Our discussions are always productive and filled with insight.

I strongly believe that Ms. Gupta is exactly the type of leader who is needed in the Justice Department today. She possesses immense credibility among law enforcement leaders and community leaders. She is an effective communicator, and a bridge-builder.

I strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to unanimously support Ms. Gupta's nomination, and I urge the Committee to quickly process it as well.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Mahoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David J. Mahoney
Sheriff of Dane County (Madison), WI
President-National Sheriff's Association
Fmr. Secretary, Major County Sheriffs of America