

JOYCE BEATTY
OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

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May 10, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Durbin:

I write in support of Steve Dettelbach to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

I know Steve Dettelbach to be a person of talent, integrity, and principle. Mr. Dettelbach has a proven track record on many of the most important issues currently facing both Ohio and our nation. Mr. Dettelbach was a leader on civil rights in the Obama Administration's Department of Justice, serving as Chair of the Attorney General's Civil Rights Subcommittee for both Attorneys General Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch. In that capacity, Mr. Dettelbach had an important role on issues of police reform, hate crimes enforcement, and the threats posed by violent and racist extremist groups. If confirmed, Mr. Dettelbach would be poised to play a leadership role on these key issues again.

Furthermore, Steve Dettelbach has engaged here in Ohio and pressed for progressive change. As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Dettelbach established a Civil Rights Unit in his office for the first time ever. Using that unit, Mr. Dettelbach brought enforcement cases to a degree not seen before in that office. He obtained the landmark Cleveland Police consent decree, and he sued to enforce the Voting Rights Act by obtaining bilingual ballots in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. He also won the first ever Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Pacesetter Award for his commitment to those issues inside his office. Finally, in Mr. Dettelbach's Ohio AG campaign, I personally witnessed how he passionately championed those progressive causes and others, including criminal justice reform. Steve Dettelbach has not only talked the talk on reform, but he has also walked the walk.

That type of leadership is needed now. I believe that Mr. Dettelbach is the best person for this position, and I enthusiastically recommend him.

Sincerely,

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress