

May 19, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to express our unqualified support for the nomination of Steve Dettelbach to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”). We are former prosecutors and defense attorneys who worked with or observed Mr. Dettelbach firsthand, or became aware of his reputation when he was an Assistant United States Attorney and then Deputy Branch Chief in the District of Maryland. We all agree that based on his integrity, leadership and abilities as a lawyer and manager that Mr. Dettelbach can lead the ATF effectively and honorably as it seeks to impartially and effectively enforce the law and fight violent crime.

In 1997 Mr. Dettelbach became an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Maryland where he prosecuted a broad array of criminal offenses. He quickly became Deputy Branch Chief.

From his role working side-by-side with local police and the ATF in prosecuting violent crime, to his work with the FBI and Postal Inspectors on fraud and corruption, Mr. Dettelbach worked closely with law enforcement in their efforts to make Maryland safer. He also had a strong reputation, which he still enjoys, as a prosecutor who was scrupulously professional and fair. We know he would continue to do that as ATF Director.

As a prosecutor, Mr. Dettelbach was tough but fair. The job of a prosecutor often requires very difficult choices and exceptional judgment for making those hard decisions. This is the same kind of judgment that we know Mr. Dettelbach will bring to the job of ATF Director.

We saw Mr. Dettelbach in action and have known of him for years. He exemplified the best of the Department of Justice in its efforts, alongside its law enforcement partners, to help protect the public. We strongly urge his confirmation as ATF Director.

Sincerely,

Brent Gurney
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1991-1999

Maury S. Epner
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1990-1998

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
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Stuart Berman
Assistant U.S. Attorney,
District of Maryland, 1991-2014

Barry J. Pollack
Former Assistant Federal Public Defender
District of Maryland; Past President of the
National Association of Criminal Defense
Lawyers

Steve Levin
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 2002-2008

Andrea L. Smith
Former Director, Mid-Atlantic OCDETF;
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1990-2016

Carmina S. Hughes
Chief of Priority Crimes; Assistant U.S.
Attorney, District of Maryland, 1985-2001

Michael J. Leotta
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 2003-2011

Christopher B. Mead
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1989-1994

Barbara S. Sale
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1980-2015
Chief of Criminal Division, 2000-2015

Mara Zusman
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 2009-2017

Mythili Raman
Past Acting Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division; Former Assistant
U.S. Attorney, District of Maryland

James M. Trusty
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1999-2009

Joseph L. Evans
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1989-2003

Warren Hamel
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1990-2002

Virginia Evans
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland

Geoffrey R. Garinther
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1988-1993

Ty Kelly
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 2005-2013

Susan Ringler
Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Maryland, 1985-1998

John V. Geise
Former Chief, Professional Misconduct
Review Unit, Office of the Deputy
Attorney General, Former Assistant U.S.
Attorney, District of Maryland and
District of Columbia