

**OPEN LETTER
IN SUPPORT OF
STEVEN M. DETTELBACH, NOMINEE
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS**

May 18, 2022

Senator Dick Durbin, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Steven Michael Dettelbach, Esquire

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to strongly support the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). We are all attorneys who have observed Mr. Dettelbach firsthand or became aware of his reputation during his time as an Assistant United States Attorney and then Deputy Branch Chief in the District of Maryland. As a group, we have been prosecutors and/or defense attorneys. We are from different political parties. We hail from diverse backgrounds. Despite our differences, we all agree that based on his demonstrated integrity, leadership and ability, Mr. Dettelbach can lead the ATF vigorously and honorably as it seeks to impartially and effectively enforce the law and fight violent crime.

Mr. Dettelbach came to the District of Maryland in 1997 as a line Assistant United States Attorney, where he prosecuted a broad array of federal crimes. He enjoyed a strong working relationship with the ATF and State and local police in prosecuting violent crime, as well as with the FBI and Postal Inspectors on fraud and corruption offenses, as they strived to make Maryland safer. He also developed a strong reputation (which he still enjoys) as a prosecutor who was tough, but always scrupulously professional, and fair; attributes we know he will bring with him as ATF Director.

Litigation is often contentious, and the parties' differing positions on the issues are often strongly held, but whether we were working with Mr. Dettelbach or on the other side of the aisle from him in court, we always knew that he was doing his best to enforce the law without fear or favor. And when Mr. Dettelbach gave you his word about something, you could take it to the bank. As trial lawyers who practice in a courthouse community, we can offer no higher compliment.

We have seen Mr. Dettelbach in action and have known him for years. He exemplifies the best of the Department of Justice in its efforts in conjunction with its law enforcement partners to help protect the public. We urge his confirmation as ATF Director.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

Senator Dick Durbin, Chair
Senator Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Re: Steven M. Dettelbach, Esquire
Page Two

/s/ Robert C. Bonsib (Bn)

Robert C. Bonsib, Esquire
MarcusBonsib, LLC
6411 Ivy Lane, Suite 116
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-441-3000
Former Assistant States Attorney; Deputy State's
Attorney; Assistant United States' Attorney;
Criminal Defense Counsel

/s/ Gregg L. Bernstein (Bn)

Gregg L. Bernstein, Esquire
Zuckerman Spaeder
100 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-332-0444
Former Assistant United States' Attorney;
State's Attorney for Baltimore City; Criminal
Defense Counsel

/s/ Bruce L. Marcus

Bruce L. Marcus, Esquire
MarcusBonsib, LLC
6411 Ivy Lane, Suite 116
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-441-3000
Former Senior Assistant Public Defender;
Criminal Defense Counsel

/s/ Dale P. Kelberman (Bn)

Dale P. Kelberman, Esquire
68 Southgate Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-507-2830
Former Assistant States Attorney; Maryland
Assistant Attorney General; Assistant United
States' Attorney; former Criminal Defense Counsel

/s/ William C. Brennan (Bn)

William C. Brennan, Esquire
Brennan, McKenna & Lawlor, Chtd.
6305 Ivy Lane, Suite 700
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-0044
Criminal Defense Counsel

/s/ David M. Simpson

David M. Simpson, Esquire
6404 Ivy Lane
Suite 408
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-474-9634
Criminal Defense Counsel
Former Assistant State's Attorney