

**LAWRENCE G. KEANE**

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February 5, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

NSSF is the trade association for America's firearm, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry. NSSF's mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. On behalf of our more than 10,000 member companies nationwide, I write in strong support of the nomination of Robert Cekada to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and urge his swift confirmation.

Mr. Cekada has dedicated his life to serving the American people and advancing public safety. During his more than three decades in law enforcement, including over 20 years with the ATF, Mr. Cekada has distinguished himself as an effective professional consistently recognized for his leadership capabilities and proven record of enforcing the law. He understands internal agency operations, and during his tenure as Deputy Director, Mr. Cekada has demonstrated the level of expertise and competence required to lead a large, complex organization such as the ATF, and is dedicated to achieving ATF's vital public safety mission.

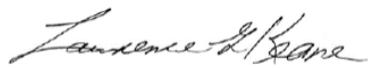
In his current role as Deputy Director, Mr. Cekada has worked to restore trust between ATF and the regulated industry. He recognizes that a cooperative relationship with industry is essential to helping ATF to effectively combat violent crime, stop illegal trafficking and prevent the criminal misuse of firearms. Because of his efforts, the ATF is focused on its core law enforcement and public safety mission.

During his nomination hearing, we appreciated Mr. Cekada's unequivocal commitment to continue these critical efforts, stating on the record: "I can assure you with absolute certainty that ATF, first of all under my watch as the Deputy Director since April of last year, has 1000% been focused on holding people accountable who have committed violent crimes. We are not here trying to burden unnecessarily the American citizen who has the complete right to exercise their Second Amendment right to bear arms. We will not be doing that in the future if I am so confirmed."

Mr. Cekada, without question, meets all the qualifications we consider necessary to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of Director of the ATF. We are proud

to offer our strong and unqualified support for his nomination. We respectfully request you advance the nomination of Robert Cekada as Director of the ATF. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence G. Keane".

Lawrence G. Keane