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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

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February 6, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 87th Attorney General of the United States. I appreciated our discussions preceding your confirmation and look forward to working with you on the critical matters facing our nation and the State of Maine.

As you and President Trump have long recognized, the United States and the American people face grave threats. These threats include malicious behavior from hostile foreign powers; transnational criminal organizations that are flooding our country with fentanyl; the scourge of violent crime that is destroying many of our communities; and reinvigorated terrorist organizations whose sole aim is to harm Americans.

One of the Department's most powerful tools to combat these threats is the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Given your experience as a prosecutor and State Attorney General, I know you appreciate the extraordinary professionalism, dedication, and self-sacrifice of our nation's law enforcement officers.

I understand that, prior to your confirmation, the acting leadership of the Department initiated certain actions intended to scrutinize the operations of the FBI and its employees. These actions included the termination of certain officials and, reportedly, a questionnaire sent to all FBI employees regarding their involvement in certain investigations. I have always strongly supported accountability and expect all U.S. government employees to perform their responsibilities ethically and in accordance with the law. However, I am deeply concerned that these initiatives could result in adverse actions against FBI employees – including special agents in the field – who have admirably and selflessly embodied the values of the FBI's motto: fidelity, bravery, and integrity. Moreover, such actions could affect FBI personnel who were involved in controversial investigations simply because they were following orders. The consequences may be dire: fewer special agents, fewer intelligence analysts, and fewer professional staff to combat

the Mexican cartels, counter the Community Party of China, break up violent street gangs, and keep our communities safe.

As you begin your leadership of the Department of Justice, I urge you to fully review these initiatives. Efforts to promote accountability should be carefully calibrated and judicious, and such efforts must not have the effect of driving away dedicated public servants who are so important to the safety and welfare of our country and our communities.

In part to ensure that major organizational changes are carefully calibrated and judicious, Section 505 of the annual act providing appropriations to the Department of Justice requires the Department to notify Congress in advance of certain actions, including certain reductions of personnel. In order to determine whether the actions initiated prior to your confirmation may implicate these requirements, I request that the Department provide a briefing on what actions have been taken to date, and what further actions are contemplated.

Again, I congratulate you on your confirmation, and I wish you and the Department the greatest success.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins

Chair

U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations