



U.S. Department of Justice

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VIA TELEFAX &  
FIRST CLASS MAIL

June 19, 2003

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senator  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Since assuming my duties as United States Attorney in November 2001, I have served as the Core City Attorney for the Southeast Region Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF). In that position, I have worked closely with Karen Tandy, the President's nominee to serve as the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

I understand Karen will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee next week. As you consider her nomination, I wanted to give you my perspective on the role Karen has played in developing the current drug enforcement strategy in our country. She is a skilled strategic thinker and visionary leader who is uniquely qualified to head the DEA.

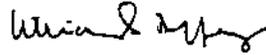
In any given month I talk to, or meet with, Karen on OCDETF matters on a variety of occasions. As a result, I have watched her set a new course for federal drug law enforcement. She was faced with a formidable challenge as she tried to redirect us from a policy that encouraged a large number of prosecutions to one which strategically targets major drug organizations. The task before her was to change the direction and culture of an embedded program. Aware that federal law enforcement is uniquely capable of conducting international and national investigations and prosecutions, Karen has been steadfast in her belief the federal enforcement focus in the drug area must be on disrupting and dismantling major drug organizations. With great resolve, she has guided the country's drug enforcement policy in this new direction. She has done so by strong advocacy and by developing realistic and concrete program guidelines all calculated to achieve the objectives of the new OCDETF. She also put into place

accountability systems that require us in the field to stay focused on this mission and to be held responsible for achieving the objectives we have set. At each step she asked for our input and when someone had a better idea she incorporated it. Through this process she created a partnership, not a headquarters devised and mandated program. The challenge to change thinking and cultures in the enforcement community was, and still is, significant. But in the short interval of two years, Karen has headed us in a new direction which already has enhanced the complexity, efficiency and results in federal drug investigations.

Karen has been able to do this because she is the most effective leader with whom I have worked in a federal program. I think that largely results from her passion to serve the public by reducing the importation of drugs into our country. But she also has a rare set of leadership skills. Having charted this new enforcement course, I have watched her with unwavering determination to build support for this program in the law enforcement community. The result is consensus on the direction she has set.

The President has nominated the best person in the country to lead the DEA. As you consider her nomination, if I may provide any further information about her leadership of OCDEF or her abilities as a leader please let me know.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM S. DUFFEY, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY