



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

SHERIFF KIERAN DONAHUE
President

January 13, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cotton
Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cotton and Ranking Member Warner:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the 3,081 elected Sheriffs serving communities nationwide, I am pleased to offer our strong endorsement of Tulsi Gabbard's nomination to serve as the Director of National Intelligence.

Ms. Gabbard has demonstrated a commitment to addressing the critical disconnect between our intelligence agencies and local law enforcement in preparing for sophisticated and pervasive threats. The recent terror attack on New Orleans serves as a stark reminder of the need for seamless coordination. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, actionable leads provided by Sheriffs in Harris County, Texas, and Fulton County, Georgia, proved instrumental. These events, like the attacks of 9/11, underscore the urgent need for local law enforcement to have a seat at the table during strategic planning discussions. Ms. Gabbard has pledged to make this a priority.

Ms. Gabbard's unparalleled experience at the local, state, and federal levels of government, combined with her leadership as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, makes her uniquely qualified for this critical role. Her proven ability to lead and her deep understanding of national security threats have earned the confidence and respect of Sheriffs across the country.

Historically, the National Sheriffs' Association has not engaged as directly with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence as we have with the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security. However, Ms. Gabbard's demonstrated commitment to bridging national intelligence and local law enforcement priorities positions her to make a significant impact. Sheriffs are often the first to respond to local threats, and her commitment to fostering communication and collaboration between federal intelligence and local agencies will greatly enhance public safety nationwide.

We urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Gabbard's nomination expeditiously. Her leadership will strengthen partnerships, rebuild trust, and ensure the security of communities across the country.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Donahue", is written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Kieran Donahue
Canyon County, ID
President
National Sheriffs' Association

Cc: POTUS-elect
Senator John Thune, Majority Leader
Senator Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director/CEO