



# Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police

Senator John Coghill (Chair)  
Senator Mia Costello  
Senator Kevin Meyer  
Senator Pete Kelly  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

April 10, 2017

Honorable Senators;

This letter is issued with the support and approval of the AACOP Board of Directors.

We support the appointment and confirmation of State of Alaska Attorney General (AG) Jahna Lindemuth.

With the appointment of Attorney General Lindemuth, the working relationship between the Attorney General's Office and those in the field has changed significantly to foster cooperation and transparency between law enforcement professionals and the Attorney General's Office (AGO). Although the AGO has been responsive in the past, we have not experienced the level of cooperation currently enjoyed. As an entity, the AGO is more engaging and proactive in addressing issues impacting law enforcement. This is wholly attributable to the leadership offered by Attorney General Lindemuth.

In this transitional time of criminal justice reform, AG Lindemuth has played a critical role in 'de-mystifying' the effects of SB91 and providing support to law enforcement in implementing change; and in advocating for balance in the criminal justice reform process. This past December, the Director of the Criminal Division, John Skidmore, provided an effective and concise evaluation of the effects of SB91. This single presentation to law enforcement executives had significant impact on the way law enforcement approached and implemented change in relation to SB91. Without the leadership, forward thinking, and advocacy of AG Lindemuth, this wouldn't have occurred.

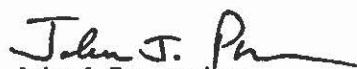
Though AG Lindemuth is a member of the law enforcement community, she also recognizes her role in supporting the efforts of the Criminal Justice Commission. Under her leadership and direction the Criminal Division has advocated for some balance in the criminal justice reform efforts in ways that address recidivism and protect victim rights. Some of those changes include reverting Violating Conditions of Release as a criminal offense; by implementing progressive incarceration for low level repeat theft offenses; and by restoring discretion to judges in assessing the need for increased penalties for first time class C felony convictions. These reforms are inclusive in SB 54, which passed the Senate in a 19-1 vote last week. This would indicate a broad base of support within the Senate for the work that AG Lindemuth and her staff have accomplished.

As a group, we can attest that we have experienced positive changes in our relationship with the AGO Criminal Division. This has been expressed in the support offered to law enforcement to increase our collective responsiveness to criminal justice reform. More importantly, AG Lindemuth's staff and law enforcement leadership, have confidence in her ability to provide sound and balanced leadership. This can only result in enhanced professionalism of both entities and enhanced public service.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage the confirmation of Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth.

We appreciate your service to the State of Alaska and concern for our citizens.

With Sincere Regards,



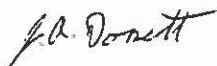
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