



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

May 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for the invitation to meet about your search for a new director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and Chairman Grassley. I have continued to think about our conversation and would like to share my thoughts.

Since its creation in 1908, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has played a critical role in keeping our country safe. The FBI's mission has grown more important and complex over the years as it has taken on significant new responsibilities. For example, FBI agents and analysts take part in counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and counterintelligence investigations in the United States and around the world. The new director must have the experience and skills to lead in all aspects of the FBI's mission.

Above all, the next FBI Director must be truly independent. Congress established a 10-year term for the FBI Director to ensure the agency is free of any political influence or interference. That principle is also the reason that no director of the FBI has ever been an elected official or political figure. Instead, the FBI has always been led by career prosecutors, law enforcement officials, or judges – established leaders with unquestioned integrity and independence.

With this in mind, I respectfully recommend Andrew McCabe. As you know, Mr. McCabe is currently the Acting Director of the FBI. He has spent nearly his entire career with the FBI, starting out as a Special Agent in the field. Over the course of more than two decades with the FBI, Mr. McCabe has risen through the

ranks and held leadership positions in the Counterterrorism Division, the National Security Branch, and the Washington Field Office.

In those roles, he has demonstrated leadership and excellence while engaged in some of the most high-profile and complex cases. In particular, he has significant experience with organized crime and counterterrorism cases, including the Boston Marathon bombing case. He has developed a reputation for being a strong and smart leader and a man of integrity. Mr. McCabe is also extremely well-regarded within the FBI and across the intelligence community.

During my time on both the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have been impressed by Mr. McCabe and believe him to be a man of honor. He is exactly the kind of person we need leading the FBI right now, and I hope you give him strong consideration. At this tumultuous time with so many threats confronting our nation, I do not believe we can afford to have an FBI Director who needs on-the-job training.

Thank you again for your invitation to share my views with you about the next FBI Director.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF/jd