July 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2021 NDAA Maloney Beneficial Ownership Amendment

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry,

I am writing on behalf of the 40 state associations and more than 60,000 law enforcement officers represented by the National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition in support of the Maloney Amendment to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would require businesses to disclose their true beneficial owners. We believe this Amendment would help law enforcement by reducing the ability of criminals to hide their tracks via “shell corporations.”

“Following the money” is a proven strategy in investigations that involve organized criminal activity including drug trafficking. Sometimes in narcotics investigations the money trail goes cold because shell corporations, which have no personally identifying information listed in filings, anonymously shield the wrongdoer.

The Maloney Amendment would address this problem by requiring the names of beneficial owners of corporations to be listed in filings. This would remove anonymity and enable investigations into organized criminal activity including drug trafficking to proceed. In a time of greatly diminished law enforcement resources, requirements under this Amendment would enable us to be more effective in protecting the public and enforcing the law.

Please consider us as a resource at your disposal as you move forward with this legislation and other policy initiatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Bushman
President
National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition