

Advocacy at Work: HR 218 News

On February 23, 2021, Congressman Don Bacon [R-NE-02] introduced the LEOSA Reform Act as HR 1210. Original co-sponsors are Representative Henry Cuellar [D-TX-28], John Rutherford [R-FL-04], and Pete Stauber [R-MN-08]. It is a critical piece of legislation that will improve public safety by allowing qualified law enforcement officers, who have committed themselves to our communities, the opportunity to continue to do so by extending their concealed carry privileges.



Congressman Don Bacon [R-NE-02]

HR 218 Subcommittee:

Steven H. Surowitz, Chair
 Weysan Dun
 Michael Harrigan
 Sterling P. Owen IV
 Jeffrey L. Riley

The Society's HR 218 Ad Hoc Committee is working diligently to seek additional co-sponsors to this bill and move this legislation forward. Please reach out to your Representative and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation if they have not already done so. If they have co-sponsored, it is a great idea to reach out with a thank you email.

List of Representatives who are current co-sponsors of HR 1210

Co-sponsor	Date Co-sponsored	Co-sponsor	Date Co-sponsored
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28] *	02/23/2021	Rep. Hagedorn, Jim [R-MN-1]	03/03/2021
Rep. Stauber, Pete [R-MN-8] *	02/23/2021	Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	03/03/2021
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4] *	02/23/2021	Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-15]	03/09/2021
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	03/01/2021	Rep. Feenstra, Randy [R-IA-4]	03/09/2021
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	03/02/2021	Rep. Keller, Fred [R-PA-12]	03/19/2021
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-10]	03/02/2021	Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	03/16/2021
Rep. Burchett, Tim [R-TN-2]	03/02/2021	Rep. Cline, Ben [R-VA-6]	04/20/2021
Rep. Cloud, Michael [R-TX-27]	03/02/2021	Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2]	05/14/2021
Rep. Herrell, Yvette [R-NM-2]	03/02/2021	Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	06/04/2021
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]	03/03/2021	Rep. Garbarino, Andrew R. [R-NY-2]	06/04/2021
Rep. Brady, Kevin [R-TX-8]	03/03/2021	Rep. Comer, James [R-KY-1]	06/15/2021
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	03/03/2021	Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	06/22/2021
Rep. Fitzgerald, Scott [R-WI-5]	03/03/2021	Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	06/23/2021
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	03/03/2021	Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	06/25/2021
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	03/03/2021	Rep. Kustoff, David [R-TN-8]	06/29/2021
Rep. Huizenga, Bill [R-MI-2]	03/03/2021	Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	07/06/2021
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	03/03/2021	Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]	07/09/2021
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	03/03/2021	Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]	07/16/2021
Rep. Clyde, Andrew S. [R-GA-9]	03/03/2021	Rep. Van Duyne, Beth [R-TX-24]	09/30/2021
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	03/03/2021	Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	09/30/2021
Rep. Johnson, Mike [R-LA-4]	03/03/2021	Rep. Taylor, Van [R-TX-3]	10/15/2021

Co-sponsor	Date Co-sponsored	Co-sponsor	Date Co-sponsored
Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7]	10/26/2021	Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	02/18/2022
Rep. Steil, Bryan [R-WI-1]	01/12/2022	Rep. Crenshaw, Dan [R-TX-2]	03/07/2022
Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]	01/19/2022	Rep. Letlow, Julia [R-LA-5]	03/11/2022
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	02/18/2022		

* *Original co-sponsor*

The related bill, Senate Bill S.1610 - LEOSA Reform Act, was introduced on 05/13/2021 by Senator John Kennedy [R-LA]. It broadens the authority for certain law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms across state lines. Specifically, the bill allows qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms and ammunition (including magazines) in school zones; in national parks; on state, local, or private property that is open to the public; and in certain federal facilities that are open to the public. Further, the bill permits states to reduce the frequency with which retired law enforcement officers must meet certain qualification standards.

List of Senators who are co-sponsors of S. 1610 - The LEOSA Reform Act

Co-sponsor	Date Co-sponsored
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]*	05/13/2021
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]*	05/13/2021

* *Original co-sponsor*

List of Law Enforcement Organizations that have endorsed this legislation

1. Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI (SFSAFBI)
2. Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
3. Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
4. National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
5. Association of Former Agents of the United States Secret Service (AFAUSSS)
6. FBI Agents Association (FBIAA)
7. National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
8. Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department (SBA-NYPD)
9. National Sheriffs Association (NSA)
10. Port Authority Retired Police Association of New York and New Jersey (PARPA NY-NJ)
11. San Francisco Veteran Police Officers Association (SFVPOA)
12. ATF Association (ATFA)
13. FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA)
14. San Jose Police Officers Association (SJPOA)
15. Air Marshal Association
16. Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)
17. Association of Federal Narcotics Agents (AFNA)
18. USAF Police Alumni Association (USAFPAA)
19. International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)
20. Retired Police Association of the State of New York (RPASNY)
21. U.S. Marshals Service Association (USMSA)
22. Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers (FTANJSP)
23. Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
24. International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
25. National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
26. New Jersey Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 600

No clemency for Peltier

President Biden released his April list of those being pardoned and those receiving clemency and Peltier's name is not on the list. Credit Director Wray for his excellent letter and follow up conversation with the Attorney General concerning Peltier. -
— President Dennis Lormel



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

March 31, 2022

Mrs. Rosalind Sargent-Burns
Acting Pardon Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Re: Opposition to Leonard Peltier's Petition for Commutation (C296035)

Dear Mrs. Sargent-Burns:

I write on behalf of the entire FBI family to express our vehement and steadfast opposition to the commutation of Leonard Peltier's sentence. Peltier is a remorseless killer who brutally murdered two of our own — Special Agents Jack R. Coler and Ronald A. Williams. Commutation of Peltier's sentence is wholly unjustified. It "would be shattering" to the victims' loved ones and an affront to the rule of law.¹

I. The facts of Peltier's horrific crimes are well-established and beyond dispute.

On June 26, 1975, Special Agents Coler and Williams were searching for a fugitive when Peltier and others mowed them down in a barrage of gunfire.² Peltier's group fired at least 125 rounds, compared to just five fired by the two outnumbered agents.³ After the onslaught, Peltier approached the injured young men and brutally executed them at close range.⁴ Peltier shot Special Agent Coler twice in the head as he lay on the ground unconscious from wounds he sustained in the initial gunfire.⁵ Special Agent Williams was on his knees, unable to stand as a

¹ Ltr. from Paul Coler (Special Agent Jack Coler's son) to FBI Director Christopher A. Wray (Feb. 25, 2022) (Attachment A).

² *Peltier v. Booker*, 348 F.3d 888, 896 (10th Cir. 2003) (*Peltier VI*) ("[T]he officers were on a routine law enforcement mission when they encountered overwhelming firepower from Native American activists.").

³ *United States v. Peltier*, 585 F.2d 314, 318 (8th Cir. 1978) (*Peltier I*).

⁴ *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 896 (concluding that "description of the murders . . . as 'executions' and 'cold-blooded' was warranted" and "quite apt").

⁵ *Peltier I*, 585 F.2d at 319 ("The murderer shot Coler, who was unconscious, across the top of the head. The bullet carried away a part of his forehead at the hairline. The shot was not fatal, however. The murderer then lowered his rifle a few inches and shot Coler through the jaw. The shell exploded inside his head, killing him instantly.").

result of his wounds, when Peltier shot him in the face through an outstretched hand.⁶ The fatal shots were fired from a high-velocity, small-caliber firearm. Eyewitnesses placed the murder weapon in Peltier's hands,⁷ and a .223-caliber cartridge retrieved from the trunk of one of the agent's cars was later linked ballistically to Peltier's AR-15.⁸

In the aftermath of the murders, Peltier engaged in a violent flight from justice. When Oregon State Police stopped Peltier and several associates near the Canadian border, Peltier's group abandoned their vehicles and fled, turning to fire shots at police as they eluded arrest.⁹ The abandoned vehicles contained an arsenal of weapons, including firearms, dynamite, grenades, and other explosives.¹⁰ In a bag bearing Peltier's thumbprint, officers found Special Agent Coler's FBI service revolver — a trophy Peltier had claimed from the murders.¹¹ As he continued his flight, Peltier burglarized a home, making off with a rifle and a truck. Peltier was finally arrested in February 1976 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Following his apprehension, Peltier said that if he had known law enforcement officers were approaching, he would have "blow[n] them out of their shoes."¹² At the time of his arrest, Peltier was armed with four firearms, including the stolen rifle.¹³

Even after his trial and conviction for the first-degree murder of Special Agents Coler and Williams, Peltier continued his contemptible pattern of crime and violence. In 1979, Peltier participated in a prison break, during which he and his fellow escapees fired shots at officers as they fled. When Peltier was later apprehended, he had a semi-automatic rifle that matched cartridges recovered from the scene of the escape.¹⁴ Peltier was subsequently convicted of

⁶ *Id.* at 318–19 ("The murderer placed the barrel of his gun against Williams' hand and fired. The bullet ripped through Williams' hand, into his face, and carried away the back of his head. He was killed instantly.").

⁷ *United States v. Peltier*, 800 F.2d 772, 779 (8th Cir. 1986) (*Peltier III*) ("Norman Brown testified that he saw Peltier firing a weapon from the treeline similar to the one introduced into evidence. . . . Michael Anderson testified that he saw Peltier at the agents' cars and that Peltier was carrying a weapon similar to the one introduced in evidence. Moreover, no witness testified that anyone other than Peltier was seen firing an AR-15 at the agents' cars, or that anyone other than Peltier was seen by the agents' cars with an AR-15.").

⁸ *Peltier I*, 585 F.2d at 319–20.

⁹ *Id.* at 320 ("Peltier was stopped by police months later in the State of Oregon. He fled the scene, turning to fire on one of the police officers.").

¹⁰ Peltier and his associates had "fourteen firearms, eight of which had obliterated serial numbers," "tool boxes containing wiring, pocket watches with wires leading out of them, tools, pliers, and empty shell casings," and "nine hand grenades." *Id.* at 322.

¹¹ *Id.* at 320.

¹² *Id.* at 334.

¹³ *Id.* at 327 ("[A]t the time of his arrest, Peltier had in his possession the .30/30 rifle stolen in Oregon, other property stolen from the Oregon ranch house, two pistols, and an M-1 semiautomatic rifle.").

¹⁴ *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 889–90.

escape and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and was sentenced to an additional seven years in prison.¹⁵

Multiple courts of appeals have affirmed Peltier's convictions and rejected his numerous challenges to his sentence.¹⁶ On direct appeal, the Eighth Circuit catalogued the "substantial" evidence presented at trial and found that "the direct and circumstantial evidence of Peltier's guilt was strong."¹⁷ Years later, the Tenth Circuit separately observed that "ample facts" showed that "Peltier personally shot Agents Coler and Williams."¹⁸ Over the past 45 years, no fewer than 22 federal judges have evaluated the evidence and considered Peltier's legal arguments. Each has reached the same conclusion: Peltier's claims are meritless, and his convictions and sentence must stand.¹⁹ Even Judge Gerald W. Heaney, whom Peltier claims as a supporter, authored an opinion **rejecting** Peltier's challenges to his guilt and conviction, concluding that "[w]hen all is said and done . . . a few simple but very important facts remain."²⁰

Like his numerous court challenges, Peltier's two prior applications for parole and multiple commutation petitions — versions of which have been pending during each of the past six presidential administrations — have all been rejected or denied. Through it all, Peltier has shown no remorse for his appalling crimes.

¹⁵ *United States v. Peltier*, 693 F.2d 96, 98 (9th Cir. 1982) (*Peltier II*) ("No imaginable set of circumstances could be drawn . . . to justify the armed jail break that took place.").

¹⁶ *Peltier I*, 585 F.2d at 335 (affirming Peltier's first-degree murder convictions); *Peltier II*, 693 F.2d at 98 (affirming Peltier's escape and unlawful firearm possession convictions); *Peltier III*, 800 F.2d at 775 (denying Peltier's first collateral attack); *Peltier v. Henman*, 997 F.2d 461, 468–69 (8th Cir. 1993) (*Peltier IV*) (denying Peltier's second collateral attack); *United States v. Peltier*, 312 F.3d 938, 943 (8th Cir. 2002) (*Peltier V*) (affirming denial of Peltier's motion to reduce his consecutive life sentences); *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 892 (rejecting Peltier's collateral attack challenging the denial of his parole application); *United States v. Peltier*, 446 F.3d 911, 914 (8th Cir. 2006) (*Peltier VII*) (affirming denial of Peltier's motion to correct sentence).

¹⁷ *Peltier I*, 585 F.2d at 319–20 & n.3.

¹⁸ *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 895 (rejecting Peltier's petition seeking immediate release).

¹⁹ See note 16 (cataloguing decisions affirming Peltier's convictions).

²⁰ *Peltier III*, 800 F.2d at 775. In his decades-old letter, Judge Heaney suggested that "[f]avorable action by the President in the Leonard Peltier case would be an important step," **not** because he had doubt about Peltier's guilt, but as part of "a healing process" for the United States government's historical treatment of Peltier and other Native Americans. See Ltr. from the Hon. Gerald W. Heaney, Senior Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs (Apr. 18, 1991) ("**N**o new evidence has been called to my attention which would cause me to change the conclusion reached in that case." (emphasis added)).

II. Peltier's petition relies on the same misinformation and isolated statements presented in prior requests, while ignoring the clear facts establishing his guilt.

The heinous nature of Peltier's crimes, his propensity for violence, and his complete failure to accept responsibility should disqualify him from the "extraordinary remedy" he seeks.²¹ In his latest request for commutation, Peltier offers no new grounds for relief, merely recycling the same arguments and misinformation courts have rejected time and again.

i. Peltier was the shooter.

At least three separate courts have dispensed with Peltier's attempts to cast doubt on the ballistic evidence connecting him to the shots that killed the young agents.²² One of those courts succinctly summarized the critical physical evidence, noting:

only the AR-15 linked to Mr. Peltier could have fired the fatal shots into the two agents, . . . the .223 casing found in Agent Coler's trunk matched the AR-15 recovered in Wichita and linked to Mr. Peltier, [and] other AR-15's present on the Reservation were fired at locations far from the murder scene. . . .²³

Far from "unraveling" as Peltier suggests, the convincing proof of his primary role in the violent murders remains undisturbed.

ii. The government has been unwavering in its view of the conclusive evidence establishing that Peltier shot Special Agents Coler and Williams.

Peltier persists in the long-debunked claim that one of the prosecutors later admitted during an appellate argument that the government "can't prove who shot those agents." The Eighth Circuit carefully examined that statement and concluded it was a "totally inadequate basis for asserting that the government conceded that it had not proved that Peltier personally shot the agents at close range."²⁴ The court explained that when viewed in context, the comment "appears to relate" to a point the prosecutor was making about a different case altogether, one "involving

²¹ See Department of Justice, Justice Manual, 9-140.113 (Standards for Considering Commutation Petitions).

²² *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 894; *Peltier III*, 800 F.2d at 777 ("When all is said and done, however, a few simple but very important facts remain. The casing introduced into evidence had in fact been extracted from the Wichita AR-15."); *United States v. Peltier*, 609 F. Supp. 1143, 1154 (D. N.D. 1985) (rejecting Peltier's challenge to the ballistic evidence after conducting an evidentiary hearing).

²³ *Peltier VI*, 348 F.3d at 894 (citing *Peltier I*, 585 F.2d at 319-20; *Peltier III*, 800 F.2d at 779).

²⁴ *Peltier IV*, 997 F.2d at 468-69 ("It is impossible to conclude that, in all the circumstances [AUSA] Crooks, who had participated in the trial of the case, intended by his unartfully phrased statement . . . to abandon one of the two theories upon which the government had tried the case. . . .").

the murder of federal marshals, not the murder of FBI Agents Coler and Williams.”²⁵ Given the court’s definitive reasoning, Peltier’s suggestion that the government made some sort of concession is totally disingenuous.

iii. Far from adding anything new, Peltier’s claims have weakened.

Peltier’s application contains no new evidence or information. His inability to cast doubt on his prior convictions is unsurprising,²⁶ as proof of his guilt has only gotten stronger since trial. In 2004, Darlene Nichols, a former associate of Peltier’s, testified that Peltier admitted his role in the Coler and Williams murders to her in 1975 during his time as a fugitive.²⁷ Nichols said that Peltier chillingly recounted that “[the agent] was begging for his life, but I shot him anyway.”²⁸ Even Peltier’s own story has evolved from initially denying being anywhere close to the fallen agents to ultimately admitting to being near the dead bodies.

iv. Peltier is unworthy of support.

Peltier’s sympathizers promote him as a standard-bearer for legitimate grievances about the United States government’s historical mistreatment of Native Americans. But the facts cannot be ignored. Peltier is a ruthless murderer who has demonstrated an utter lack of remorse for his many crimes. He is unfit for commutation. “[T]hat Peltier has become a favorite cause and figurehead championed by Hollywood, the music industry, politicians and well-intended activists” despite his vicious and unrepentant history only adds to the pain endured by those who loved and lost Special Agents Coler and Williams.²⁹

²⁵ The Eighth Circuit further concluded that even if the prosecutor intended to refer to the instant case involving Special Agents Coler and Williams, it is “more likely, he was merely reiterating that the government did not present any direct evidence . . . since all of the government’s proof was circumstantial.” *Id.* at 469.

²⁶ In addition to the examples outlined above, Peltier’s oft-repeated claim that the trial judge unfairly excluded evidence of the events leading up to the murder misrepresents the record. The Eighth Circuit rejected that argument years ago, observing that, over the government’s objection, “[t]he district court admitted substantial evidence concerning the atmosphere on the reservation and the poor relations between the AIM, on the one hand, and the GOONS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the FBI on the other hand.” *Id.* at 470 (emphasis added) (explaining that the only limitation the trial judge placed was on evidence of specific acts to avoid “mini-trials” by triggering the government’s right to present conflicting evidence).

²⁷ Nichols was testifying in the trial of Arlo Looking Cloud for the murder of Anna Mae Aquash, who Peltier and others thought was an FBI informant. *United States v. Looking Cloud*, 419 F.3d 781, 789 n.5 (8th Cir. 2005) (affirming Looking Cloud’s conviction for first-degree murder).

²⁸ Tr. Transcript at 144–45, *United States v. Looking Cloud*, 03-cr-55520 (D. S.D., Feb. 3–6, 2004).

²⁹ Ltr. from Ronald Coler (Special Agent Coler’s son) to Director Christopher A. Wray (Mar. 3, 2022) (Attachment B).

III. Peltier's crimes left a hole in the lives of the victims' surviving family, friends, and colleagues that now runs generations deep.

Despite the passage of time, the pain that Peltier caused his victims' families remains and, in many ways, has grown deeper. When Peltier murdered Special Agents Coler and Williams in 1975, a young wife was left "alone" and "devastated,"³⁰ two small children were "robbed of a father," and a grieving mother "was never the same."³¹ Now, decades later, the children are grown, having gone through life longing for their father's "presence and connection."³² The families' hearts remain broken; they "will never, as long as [they] live, forget [their family member] and friend."³³ And there are now new generations of grandchildren and extended family who "will never have the opportunity to know and love" their relatives, who were taken too soon.³⁴

Each time Peltier attempts to resurrect his claims for leniency, it leads to an inevitable swirl of misinformation, causing the fallen agents' loved ones to experience their pain anew.³⁵ After all these years, they understandably have difficulty understanding why there is still no closure.³⁶ Special Agent Coler's admiring younger sisters put it well:

Leonard Peltier didn't know the two men he murdered, but because of him, [those] of us who loved them have never really had a chance for closure. We are subjected to hearing and thinking about him, reliving that time more often than we should. Parole hearings, [p]ardon and [c]lemency requests, books, movies, etc. Nothing has changed regarding this case in the last 47 years.³⁷

Despite the pain, whenever Peltier's case has come back to the fore, Special Agent Coler's and Williams' surviving family members have stepped forward to "do everything

³⁰ Paul Coler Letter.

³¹ Ltr. from Michael Titone (Special Agent Williams' 98-year-old uncle) to Director Christopher A. Wray (Feb. 24, 2022) (Attachment C).

³² Ronald Coler Letter.

³³ Ltr. from Dan Williams (Special Agent Williams' cousin) to Director Christopher A. Wray (Feb. 25, 2022) (Attachment D).

³⁴ Paul Coler Letter.

³⁵ Ltr. from Peggy Coler (Special Agent Coler's widow) to FBI Director Christopher A. Wray (Attachment E) (describing her experience as a "never-ending nightmare").

³⁶ "It is all very strange to me. Strange, that after executing two defenseless men, that it could ever be considered that Peltier would get out of prison." Peggy Coler Letter.

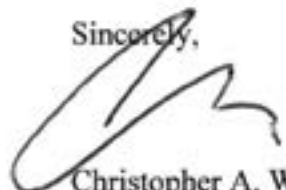
³⁷ Ltr. from Linda Miller and Susan Gregg (Special Agent Coler's sisters) to FBI Director Christopher A. Wray (Mar. 1, 2022) (Attachment E).

possible to keep this cold[-]blooded murderer behind bars where he belongs.”³⁸ In support of this opposition, I received letters from a whole host of family members, ranging from Special Agent Williams’ 98-year-old uncle and a loving cousin to Special Agent Coler’s still-grieving widow and sons. Each shared the pain that Peltier has caused them and their families and expressed how devastating it would be if he were granted clemency now, so many years later.

Over the years, the resolve of the FBI family has also not slackened. Prior FBI directors have weighed in forcefully against Peltier’s repeated petitions.³⁹ The FBI Agents Association, which represents 14,000 current and former FBI employees, and the Society of Former Agents of the FBI, which represents thousands more, remain staunchly opposed to Peltier’s pleas.⁴⁰ This letter, too, reflects a combined effort by the FBI family. Dozens of current—and several retired—FBI employees personally contributed, considering it an “honor” to work with the Coler and Williams families and to advocate on behalf of their fallen colleagues. Although they may lack the platform that some of Peltier’s celebrity supporters have had over the years, I can assure you that the FBI family’s passion and dedication to this issue remain as strong as ever.

Given the overwhelming and unassailable evidence of his guilt, the brutality of his crimes, and his persistent refusal to accept responsibility, I urge you in the strongest terms possible to recommend denial of Peltier’s latest commutation petition. Peltier is right where he belongs, serving consecutive life sentences for his cold-blooded murders of Jack and Ron.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Wray
Director

³⁸ Dan Williams Letter.

³⁹ Ltr. from FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, to Attorney General Janet Reno (Dec. 5, 2000) (“The entire episode by Peltier remains an affront to the very principles to which you and I have dedicated our lives and to which every employee in the FBI stands firm.”); Ltr. from FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, to Isaac Fulwood, Jr., Chairman, United States Parole Commission (July 20, 2009) (“The passage of time does not diminish the brutality of these crimes or the incalculable damage done by Mr. Peltier to the surviving families, friends, and colleagues of Agents Coler and Williams.”); Ltr. from Ernest Babcock, FBI Deputy General Counsel to Cynthia K. Dunne, Attorney for Peltier (June 22, 2016) (declining Dunne’s request to meet with Director Comey and explaining “[Peltier’s] crimes resulted in pain and loss that will forever be felt by the families of the victims and by the FBI family.”) (Attachment F).

⁴⁰ Ltr. from Dennis M. Lormel, President, Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, to Attorney General Merrick Garland (Feb. 15, 2022) (“Peltier deserves no compassion in return for the executions he freely chose to commit.”); Ltr. from Brian O’Hare, President, FBI Agents Association, to Attorney General Garland (Dec. 2, 2021) (“Activists supporting Peltier use a mix of folklore, falsehoods and out-of-context statements that are designed to . . . exonerate Peltier in the eyes of the public, rather than show any true remorse regarding the murders of Agents Coler and Williams.”) (Attachment G).