

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing in support of the nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

As former ATF special agents we are very familiar with the important role that ATF plays in enhancing public safety, preventing violent crime, and keeping communities safe. ATF would greatly benefit from a Director with David's experience, knowledge and in-depth understanding to lead the agency.

David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead and has successfully done so in public service, the private sector and the not-for-profit spheres. David is a dedicated public safety professional with more than 30 years of experience in protecting the public from violent crime. His long and varied career ranges from being a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), to deploying high tech gunshot detection systems in cities and advocating for common sense solutions to gun violence all over the country. As a father, public servant, gun owner, decorated law enforcement officer and gun safety expert, David has spent his career serving the public, combating violent crime, and striving to make our nation and our communities safer every day.

David's education also makes him exceptionally well suited to serve as ATF Director. In 2005 David was selected to attend the John's Hopkins University's Police Executive Leadership Program whose curriculum focused specifically on leading public safety organizations and David earned a Master of Science degree. That effort was also a milestone for ATF because David was the first special agent ever to attend the program and he proved to be a superior student, even while maintaining his headquarters assignment responsibilities.

David's academic achievement served the Bureau well. Following his graduation David was promoted to multiple leadership positions within the Bureau including Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs in 2012. In his various leadership roles, David managed hundreds of agents, partnered with dozens of communities and was responsible for execution of the operational budget in all of ATF's 25 field divisions, with an additional annual budget in excess of \$150 million.

ATF has had only one director confirmed by the U.S. Senate since 2006, in 2013. David is uniquely qualified to implement President Biden's law enforcement agenda as it relates to ATF, and he will be a committed leader for an agency that has struggled with interim directors for the past **fifteen** years.

We close by reiterating that David's significant professional experience and personal dedication to making this country a safer place for all Americans that make him an excellent candidate to serve as ATF's eighth permanent director.

We urge you to swiftly confirm David Chipman to be the next Director of ATF.

Sincerely,

John Risenhoover  
ATF Special Agent (ret.)  
Palm City, Florida

Mark D. Jones  
ATF Special Agent (ret.)  
Chicago, IL

James Yurgealitis  
ATF Special Agent (ret.)  
Baltimore, MD

Wayne L. Dixie Jr.  
ATF Special Agent (ret.)  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Benjamin R. Hayes  
ATF Special Agent (ret.)  
Damascus, Maryland