

William T. Earle

“Enjoy the Journey”
Hume, Virginia

May 20, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
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:

I'm writing to strongly support and recommend the confirmation of Mr. David Chipman as director of ATF. I am retired from ATF after 31 years of service. The last seven years of that career as Assistant Director, Management and CFO. I have also served the beverage alcohol industry for over 12 years as the president of the National Association of Beverage Importers.

I know David and his wife Tara well. In fact, David worked for me during my time as CFO. He will bring to the ATF Directors position not only broad experience as a law enforcement officer but also knowledge and insights of a resource management

professional. In the CFOs office David had ongoing responsibilities for monitoring and projecting budgets and reporting to Congress, OMB and the public. I can't tell you how significant this is for a law enforcement agency. In fact, during my seven years as CFO ATF achieved seven clean, unqualified audit opinions. David was a key part of that accomplishment. Few gun carrying LEOs have that kind of experience in any federal agency.

David's work and life experiences have prepared him well for this executive position. He has demonstrated in every job he's held a discipline for judgements based on facts, fairness and accountability. In my experience when David was at the table, I knew I could rely on crisp and focused analysis tightly aligned to the topic.

Federal law enforcement officers have been in the maelstrom of national events. Whether it be 911, Waco, Oklahoma City or church bombings.... David has shown the leadership and courage to serve the national interest with distinction and honor. ATF deserves a confirmed Director who is cut from the cloth of the women and men who dedicate their careers to serving America. David Chipman is that person.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Earle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "W".

William T Earle