

May 20, 2021

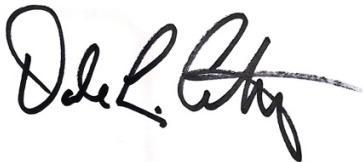
The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

Thank you for the important work you undertake to ensure the viewpoints of all Americans are heard and considered during Presidential nominee confirmation hearings. Soon you will be considering the nomination of David Chipman to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). I am writing to share with you a letter I recently sent to Senator Susan Collins regarding my knowledge of David Chipman during the years we served together as Special Agents at ATF. I hope you find this information is a useful contribution to an informed and productive hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale L. Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dale Armstrong  
Resident of Maine

Attachment; Letter to Senator Susan Collins, May 5, 2021

May 5, 2021

U.S. Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

My name is Dale Armstrong and I am a resident of Maine as well as a retired Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) special agent with 29 years of service in Federal law enforcement. During my career I served as the Resident Agent in Charge of ATF in Maine as well as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of ATF for all of the New England states. I also served as the President of the Federal Executive Board of Southern Maine for a few years during which time you were gracious enough to attend our annual Federal Employee Awards Ceremony. I am writing today to ask you to support David Chipman, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Director of ATF.

I have known David Chipman for 20 years and consider him both a colleague and friend. I have worked with him professionally for many years and have always found him to be a thoughtful leader who is committed to the job and acts with integrity. I also know David outside the workplace and have met with him from time to time during his many trips to Maine to visit his parents who also reside here.

ATF needs an appointed director. I cannot imagine a situation where for years at a time a large city police department would be left to operate without a confirmed leader, and yet that is frequently the situation at ATF. This has an adverse impact on operations and morale, and makes it difficult for the agency to have clear direction. David's nomination is also unique in that ATF has never had a special agent appointed by the president to be the agency's Director. The confirmation of David Chipman as Director would significantly improve both the operations and morale of ATF, and give the agency the leadership it badly needs.

I realize that since retiring from ATF, David has worked for two gun violence prevention organizations, Everytown For Gun Safety and Giffords. David cares tremendously about keeping communities safer from gun violence, but I know that some view this chapter of his career as being political. If you would like to know how David Chipman would serve as the ATF Director I believe that one of the best predictors of future behavior is past behavior and David's 25 years of service as an ATF agent during which he acted fairly and enforced the laws evenly and impartially are evidence of how he would serve as the Director of ATF. As for claims that Dave is an anti-gun, I know this is simply untrue. David himself is a gun owner, and would not deny law-abiding citizens from also exercising that right.

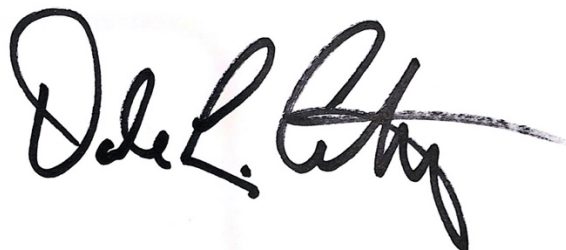
As you know a great number of Mainers, including myself, are gun owners. I have handguns, a shotgun, and an AR-15 rifle. Mainers are a very responsible group with some of the lowest violent crime rates in the country year after year. That said, there are a few things in Maine that focused ATF enforcement under the direction of a confirmed Director Chipman would benefit from. Maine is a source state for the

purchase of guns that are later recovered in violent crimes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. David would ensure that ATF effectively uses crime gun trace data and the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN) as well as existing Federal laws to go after those who come to Maine and obtain firearms for the purpose of selling them to violent gangs and prohibited persons. Additionally, one of the leading causes of homicide in Maine is domestic violence and this often involves a firearm. David would ensure ATF effectively uses National Insta-Check System (NICS) data to rapidly identify those persons with a prior domestic violence conviction or an existing domestic violence restraining order who attempt to purchase a firearm so that ATF and local law enforcement may intercede before another tragic event unfolds. Finally, Maine has locations where local law enforcement could use additional resources to support their efforts in dealing with armed crime. David would ensure ATF agents in Maine had the resources to continue their support and partnerships with the Lewiston Police Department and Penobscot County Sheriffs Office where Federal task force operations work as a force multiplier.

I have always had a great respect for your bipartisan and practical nature, and you have done so much for Maine and the country. I hope that this letter gives you reason to support David Chipman's confirmation as ATF Director.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale L. Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dale Armstrong  
26 Vines Road  
Saco, ME. 04072