



May 19, 2021

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

I am writing in support of the nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). As a retired veteran police sergeant and as a Black woman, I am very familiar with the important role that ATF plays in enhancing public safety and preventing violent crime. I am certain that ATF would benefit greatly with a Director that has David's experience and knowledge at the helm.

I met David in 2013 when we were both working with Everytown for Gun Safety committed to keeping bullets out of people. We went on to admire each other's work in the gun safety arena and became friends while continuing to admire the work to which we each devoted ourselves.

David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead ATF, and he is experienced and committed to the mission of ATF. He is a dedicated law enforcement professional – as am I - with over 30 years' experience in public safety, including as a special agent with the ATF. As a father, public servant, gun owner, decorated law enforcement professional 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.

ATF has had only one director confirmed by the U.S. Senate since 2006, and that was in 2013. David is uniquely qualified to implement President Biden's law enforcement agenda as it relates to ATF. Without a doubt, he will be a committed leader for an agency that has primarily relied on interim directors for the past fifteen years.

Certainly, by this time you must know of David's stellar and lauded record during his 25-year tenure with ATF. But what I know for a fact is that since I first met him in 2013, he has served as an expert advising organizations at the forefront of gun violence prevention. David has advised policymakers, gun violence prevention advocates, and community groups on gun violence prevention issues and provided expert testimony before Congress on firearms legislation. In addition, David served two terms on the Firearms Committee of the IACP.

David's significant professional experience and personal dedication to making our country a better, safer place for all make him an excellent candidate to serve as ATF's eighth permanent director. I urge you to confirm David Chipman to be the next Director of ATF as soon as possible.

Judith Heilman
Judith Heilman
Executive Director