

May 17, 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:

My name is Phyllis Root-Fraidenburg. I retired from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in 2013 as an investigative analyst. I am writing in support of the nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. David Chipman was the Resident Agent in Charge at the Flint Field Office, and during that time I worked for David as an investigative assistant. I know that David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead ATF. He has the leadership and management skills and experience to address the politically sensitive firearms-related issues the country faces today.

With David Chipman in charge of the Flint Field Office, we were successful in enforcing firearms and explosives laws. Under David's leadership we were able to better protect the community and residents we served by combating violent crime.

David Chipman had the respect of his employees and other members of the law enforcement community. David is an excellent communicator and an even better listener. He is open, approachable and supportive. David is confident and instills that confidence in his staff. He imparts his knowledge and experience and gives you the tools to do your job.

I was fortunate to be David's investigative assistant. We had a close working relationship. I felt he had confidence in my ability and respected my years of experience. Our office had a conflict-free environment. I was always treated with dignity and as an essential member of team. While working for David, my position was due to be upgraded from a GS 7 to GS 9, he encouraged me to apply for the new position of investigative analyst. His encouragement and confidence in my ability helped me to move into the investigative analyst position and have a fulfilling career with ATF.

In 2008, I was selected as an Outstanding Administrative Support Employee of the Year. David was in headquarters at that time, but he prepared the text that was read during the presentation of my award. It was an honor that David remembered my role in the Flint Field Office and that he played a part in that award.

I have the deepest respect for David Chipman, and I believe he is uniquely qualified to lead ATF. David Chipman is a person of integrity, dedication and professionalism. As the director, he has the capacity to make the country a safer and better place for all. It is an honor and a privilege to support David Chipman in this nomination. I urge you to confirm David Chipman as the new director of ATF.

Respectfully yours,

Phyllis Root-Fraidenburg