



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

May 12, 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:

Please accept my enthusiastic support for the nomination of David Chipman to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). I have dedicated 50 years of my life to the improvement of the United States criminal justice system, the last 25 of those as Director of Research for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). From my half century of learning about the complex workings of our justice system, I view David as the perfect nominee to both sustain ATF's incredibly important mission and help it refine that mission to meet emerging 21st Century challenges.

I had the pleasure of working closely with David during his tenure as a Visiting Police Fellow at the IACP. Working collaboratively with him on any number of critical policing and justice research and policy efforts, I found David to be a thoughtful, innovative and creative police leader. His contributions to our work without doubt helped IACP formulate smart, viable and impactful recommendations to the policing field. Most importantly, I found David to have the highest standard for decency, morality, and ethics. A constant during his fellowship was a demonstrated drive to do what was right— for policing, the justice system and the communities they serve.

In summary, David brings three critical assets to the job: 1) his vast knowledge of the ATF from a long and successful career as an ATF special agent, 2) his work with organizations like IACP and more recently at Giffords afford him a broad view of firearm violence in the U.S. and globally, and 3) his passion for constant improvement both personally and professionally. As I tell my policing students in my current role at American University, we need a new culture of leaders in policing that can honor the past, value constancy, embrace change and above all- see how the world is changing and help policing move to the future with great success. David Chipman is that kind of leader and I urge you to confirm him.

Sincerely,

John R. Firman
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