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May 1, 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).

I serve as the Sheriff of Dane County, Wisconsin, one of the most populated counties throughout the state. I have been a professional law enforcement officer for 41 years, and am intimately familiar with the importance of enforcing gun laws and how gun violence deeply affects community and policing. To that end, I am very familiar with the important role that ATF plays in enhancing public safety, preventing violent crime, and keeping communities safe. ATF would benefit greatly with a Director such as Mr. Chipman.

Mr. Chipman possesses over 30 years' experience in public safety, including as an ATF special agent. He spent nearly his entire career in service of ATF's unique mission of enforcing firearms and explosives laws that protect communities from people perpetuating violence and criminal activities, investigating acts of arson, bombings, and terrorism, and combating the illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. He did this by serving in a variety of roles at ATF.

Perhaps no role was more significant than Mr. Chipman's service as an investigative responder providing assistance to state and local authorities in the aftermath of significant bombings and

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arsons. Mr. Chipman investigated some of the most serious incidents of terrorism of the decade, including the World Trade Center Bombing in 1993 and Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995. In 1996, David also investigated a series of racially motivated arsons that destroyed a number of predominantly Black houses of worship in Boligee, Alabama, an investigation that ultimately brought the perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Chipman also served on the Special Response Team (SRT), ATF's version of SWAT. He managed complex firearms trafficking cases, including busting organized criminal groups involving the transportation of guns to New York in exchange for illegal drugs in the Tidewater Virginia area. Mr. Chipman was awarded the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety.

In addition to these impressive credentials in the field, Mr. Chipman also has notable managerial experience. While at the ATF, Mr. Chipman was promoted to multiple leadership positions, including Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs in 2012. Mr. Chipman managed hundreds of agents, partnered with dozens of communities and was responsible for execution of ATF's operational budget in all 25 field divisions and an annual budget in excess of \$150 million.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Chipman's background and experience demonstrate his superior qualifications to serve as the ATF Director. He is someone that state and local law enforcement will be able to work with and look to as we promote public safety in our communities.

I urge the Senate to confirm Mr. Chipman to serve as the next Director of ATF.

Sincerely,

David J. Mahoney
Sheriff
Dane County, Wisconsin

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