

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2021

Senator Dick Durbin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We oppose Mr. David Chipman's nomination to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). We urge you and your colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to vigorously oppose his nomination.

Mr. Chipman has a long history of advocating against Americans' Second Amendment rights. He supports limiting magazine capacity, holding gun manufactures liable if one of their products is used by a criminal in a crime, and banning certain types of rifles – including America's most popular rifle, the AR-15. In 2018, he even argued that AR-15s should be regulated under the National Firearms Act and treated the same way as machine guns.

He supports expanding background checks to all gun sales and requiring all gun sales to be done by licensed gun dealers. He has even argued for arresting Americans before they commit crimes. In September 2019, he stated "I conducted studies involving people who failed background checks to determine how many later committed crimes with a gun—many did. This is a perfect opportunity to **arrest people before committing crimes** rather than responding after the fact."

Mr. Chipman has consistently worked to advance a radical gun control agenda. Since leaving ATF, Mr. Chipman has worked for extreme organizations, including Everytown for Gun Safety and the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. These groups have supported the dangerous notion that the Second Amendment does not protect a private right of gun ownership.

Mr. Chipman argued for ATF to have a strong leader who would use all of his or her tools to suppress Americans' gun rights. He advocated for ATF to ignore the law and go around Congress. In a June 2013 Politico article, he wrote "our weak firearms laws make it all too easy for guns to fall into the wrong hands — and since Congress has failed to address these gaps legislatively, ATF must chart a new course to combat the scourge of gun violence. This requires strong leadership." Such contempt for the rule of law is unacceptable.

Just last year, in the name of gun control, Mr. Chipman attacked Americans' due process rights by advocating for red flag laws. These laws strip Americans of their rights before they have had any opportunity to defend themselves in court. Allowing law enforcement to take away an American's firearms before any judicial proceedings have occurred runs afoul of a core principle of our legal system: innocent until proven guilty. Red flag laws are more in line with the fiat of

the Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland than with principles of the U.S. Constitution: “No, no!” said the Queen. ‘Sentence first – verdict afterwards.’” Supporting Mr. Chipman’s nomination would lead directly to this kind of backwards and outlandish thinking.

Mr. Chipman has made it clear that he will trample on Americans’ Second and Fourth Amendment rights. We strongly encourage you and your colleagues to oppose Mr. Chipman’s nomination to lead the ATF.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
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Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress