



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

May 25, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is proud to represent the more than 3,080 men and woman around the country who have been elected to serve as Sheriff of their county. With these men and women in mind, NSA writes to you regarding the nomination of Mr. David Chipman to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Unfortunately, it is after much deliberation that NSA must oppose this nomination.

NSA leadership had the opportunity to meet briefly with Mr. Chipman and, while we appreciate his years of service as a law enforcement officer at ATF, the nature of the nominee's activism after leaving the agency is of great concern to us. Sheriffs, as guardians of their communities, strive to keep those communities safe; the nominee's stance on the Second Amendment is, we believe, counterproductive to that responsibility.

The contrast between the nominee's seemingly myopic position on firearms and the discernment necessary to lead ATF is troubling. ATF requires leadership that considers the perspectives of law enforcement and approaches complexities without preconceived solutions. We do not believe the nominee is that leader.

In closing, NSA has supported many of the Administration's nominees but regrets that this one has met with our strong opposition. Should there be any questions regarding our position on this nomination, we would welcome the opportunity to further discuss it with the Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jonathan F. Thompson
Executive Director and CEO
National Sheriffs' Association