



MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE

MONTANA STATE CAPITOL
PO BOX 200500
HELENA MT 59620-0500
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

SENATOR MARK BLASDEL
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
REPRESENTATIVE E. WYLIE GALT
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Senator Tester,

National news outlets have recently reported that that President Biden's nominee to serve as the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), David Chipman, is "stuck in limbo" in the U.S. Senate and that "there is a significant chance Chipman's nomination could come down to a handful of Democrats" – including you.

You said you are "still analyzing" but not "feeling the urgency." Your staff has likewise said that you "continue to review David Chipman's record and testimony to ensure he would support our brave law enforcement officers and respect Montanans' Second Amendment rights."

As elected representatives and Montanans who strongly support our constituents' right to keep and bear arms, allow us to make that analysis simple: Mr. Chipman's history as a lobbyist for radical gun control groups and support for unconstitutional firearm bans make it glaringly obvious he will not "respect Montanans' Second Amendment rights" and will actively work to infringe upon them.

If you still require further analysis before choosing if you will cast a deciding vote to confirm the most anti-Second Amendment nominee in ATF history, please review the following:

- Mr. Chipman has been a registered lobbyist for Everytown for Gun Safety and the Giffords Organization, two of the largest and most radical gun control groups in the nation.
- During his testimony in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Chipman said he supports a ban on AR-15s, one of the most common sporting rifles in America. Such a ban was recently declared unconstitutional by a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.
- As the chief law enforcement or legal officers in their respective states, 21 state attorneys general led by Austin Knudsen oppose Mr. Chipman's confirmation over their concern he "will make Americans less safe by diverting ATF resources to attack the rights of law-abiding gun owners instead of cracking down on violent criminals and criminal organizations."
- Twenty-two sportmen's groups are also opposing Mr. Chipman's confirmation because it "would result in significant and far-reaching negative impacts to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and importantly, to wildlife and its habitat."

Violent crime in our state spiked another 14 percent last year after steadily rising since 2014. There were 50 murders in 2020 alone, more than any other year going back at least until 1980. To reverse this trend, Montana law enforcement officers need leaders at federal agencies who will put public safety first—not their anti-gun political agendas.



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Rejecting Mr. Chipman's nomination should be an easy, no-brainer decision. We urge you to oppose his confirmation and announce your opposition without further delay.

Sincerely,

President of the Senate Mark Blasdel
Speaker of the House Wylie Galt
Senate Majority Leader Cary Smith
House Majority Leader Sue Vinton
Senate President Pro Tempore Jason Ellsworth
House Speaker Pro Tempore Casey Knudsen
Rep. Seth Berglee
Sen. Ken Bogner
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
Sen. Chris Friedel
Sen. Carl Glimm
Sen. Greg Hertz
Rep. Ed Hill
Sen. Doug Kary
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
Sen. Theresa Manzella
Sen. Tom McGillvray
Sen. Brad Molnar
Rep. Bob Phalen
Rep. Amy Regier
Sen. Keith Regier
Rep. Linda Reksten
Sen. Dan Salomon
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
Rep. Barry Usher