



May 6th, 2022

Honorable Senator Richard Durbin,
Chairman, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senator Charles Grassley,
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Nomination and Confirmation of Mr. Steve Dettelbach
Position: Oppose

Dear Senators Durbin, Grassley, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

I write to you today on behalf of the Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC), a non-profit organization that promotes maximal individual liberty and sound public policy through litigation, research, education, grassroots outreach, and direct advocacy. I write to express FPC's strong opposition to Steve Dettelbach's nomination to the position of Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

FPC not only opposes President Biden's nomination of Steve Dettelbach to lead the ATF, we condemn his nomination as yet another naked attempt to weaponize federal law enforcement against peaceable gun owners nationwide. Dettelbach has spent much of his career supporting partisan platforms and the gun control movement.

Mr. Dettelbach's embrace of "universal" background checks, published accounts of his support for "assault weapons" bans, and his promotion of anti-gun-owner causes are too radical for someone to be tasked with setting the policy and enforcement practices of the ATF. These positions mirror those of former nominee David Chipman and are equally disqualifying.

The ATF is tasked with interpretation and enforcement of the law as it is written, not to advocate for or manufacture changes in the law. This bureau has—especially in recent years—broken the trust of the People.

While ATF's legitimacy is dubious, until it is dissolved, the director's role should be one of ministerial duties rather than a cheerleader for the subversion of the rights of

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee

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the People. For trust to ever be restored, ATF must respect the rule of law and separation of powers. To accomplish any of this, ATF needs a Director capable of faithfully and dispassionately leading the organization. An aggressive partisan renders this extremely unlikely.

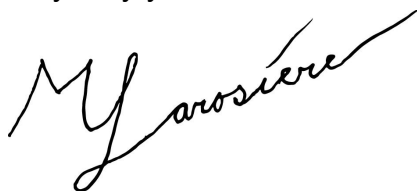
The views condemning gun owners manifestly endorsed by Mr. Dettelbach, exhibited as recently as his failed candidacy for Ohio Attorney General, and his history of partisan politics, disqualify him from serving as Director of the ATF. Mr. Dettelbach, as a nominee, is light on substance but heavy on partisan loyalty and anti-gun-owner ideology. The People of the United States, and peaceable gun owners, do not need a hostile ideologue leading a law enforcement agency tasked with regulating the firearms community.

Given ATF's recent history—tainted by executive overreach and attempts to legislate through regulation by current and former administrations—a nominee such as Mr. Dettelbach, who is so clearly motivated by partisan politics and radical anti-rights ideology, lacks the credibility needed to restore trust in our institutions and ensure fair play in regulatory and enforcement duties. Therefore, he should be withdrawn from consideration for the position.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the President to withdraw this nomination. Short of the nomination being withdrawn, we urge the United States Senate to exercise its constitutional authority, and moral duty, to withhold consent from the current nominee, Steve Dettelbach, to serve as the ATF Director. Further, we encourage the United States Senate to exercise its oversight powers to reign in the abuse of executive branch fiat legislation masquerading as regulatory action.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us at policy@fpchq.org or 1215 K Street, 17th Fl., PMB 3003, Sacramento, CA 95814 or (916) 378-5785, if we can be of any assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Larosiére", written in a cursive style.

Matthew Larosiére, Policy Counsel