

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF
2 MARÍA L. PAGÁN, TO BE DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE
3 REPRESENTATIVE, GENEVA OFFICE, WITH THE RANK OF
4 AMBASSADOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT; BRENT
5 NEIMAN, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL
6 FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY;
7 JOSHUA FROST, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL
8 MARKETS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY; SAMUEL R.
9 BAGENSTOS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
10 AND HUMAN SERVICES; CHRISTOPHER S. WILSON, TO BE CHIEF
11 INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE
12 OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK
13 OF AMBASSADOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT; AND
14 CHRISTI A. GRIMM, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT
15 OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

16
17 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

18 U.S. Senate,
19 Committee on Finance,
20 Washington, DC.

21
22 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
23 9:30 a.m., via WebEx, Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the
24 committee) presiding.

25 Present: Senator Crapo.

1 Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans,
2 Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; Ian Nicholson,
3 Investigator and Nominations Advisor; and Joshua
4 Sheinkman, Staff Director. Republican staff: Lincoln
5 Foran, Policy Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy
6 Director; John O'Hara, Trade Policy Director and
7 Counsel; Mayur Patel, Chief International Trade Counsel;
8 Gregg Richard, Staff Director; and Jeffrey Wrase, Deputy
9 Staff Director and Chief Economist.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OREGON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

3

4 The Chairman. The Finance Committee will come to
5 order. We meet today to consider six pending
6 nominations before the committee: Maria Pagan, Brent
7 Neiman, John Frost, Sam Bagenstos, Chris Wilson, and
8 Christie Grimm.

9 It is a busy morning. My colleague and I have been
10 saying there are lots of committees conducting business,
11 and we are no exception. And after consulting with the
12 ranking member, my friend Senator Crapo here, this is
13 how we are going to proceed.

14 We will use the time now to make statements about
15 the nominees. I am going to make a short statement,
16 followed by the ranking member, and followed by any
17 other Finance members who wish to make statements.

18 At that point, we intend to recess until the next
19 roll call vote on the Senate Floor, when the committee
20 will convene in the President's Room off the floor to
21 hold the vote.

22 It is my understanding that is acceptable to my
23 colleague, and I want to recognize him for his
24 statement.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO

3

4 Senator Crapo. Yes, that is acceptable. And do you
5 want me to give my statement?

6 The Chairman. Please.

7 Senator Crapo. All right, thank you very much.

8 We are holding a markup today for six nominees who
9 will affect a range of administration policies. The
10 Treasury Assistant Secretary for International Finance
11 and Development, Brent Neiman, will be the Treasury's
12 liaison to the international financial institutions.

13 Reports of possible ethical and data irregularities
14 involving these institutions' leadership officials and
15 staff have challenged their credibility and
16 accountability. While I support the role that the World
17 Bank and the IMF hold in promoting international
18 development and financial stability, trust in the
19 institutions and data integrity are at risk.

20 The administration and Congress must closely monitor
21 the functioning of these organizations, including their
22 leadership and funding requests, to ensure that they act
23 fairly and impartially.

24 As Treasury Assistant Secretary for Financial
25 Markets, Joshua Frost will be closely involved in

1 managing the debt and funding of the Federal Government.
2 A new estimate from the Committee for A Responsible
3 Federal Budget says the true cost of the current
4 tax-and-spend legislation, if made permanent, is close
5 to \$5 trillion.

6 Consequences of those partisan decisions will
7 require additional borrowing. Democrats have the tools
8 to address those requirements by increasing the debt
9 limit through reconciliation. While Mr. Frost is not
10 responsible for this fiscal policy, he will participate,
11 if confirmed, in managing a total public debt of nearly
12 \$29 trillion.

13 I urge him to work transparently with Congress, if
14 he is confirmed, and to give direct answers to the
15 questions we pose.

16 There remains room for improvement in Treasury's
17 transparency with members of this committee from both
18 parties. With nearly \$29 trillion of Federal debt
19 outstanding, and ongoing discussions within Treasury
20 about ceding U.S. taxation rights to foreign
21 jurisdictions, transparency is a necessity, not an
22 option.

23 Turning to Ms. Pagan, nominated for Deputy U.S.
24 Trade Representative to the World Trade Organization, I
25 appreciate her commitment to the cause of WTO reform.

1 It is critical that the institution embrace a reform
2 agenda in order to ensure that the rules of global trade
3 reflect the state of the world today. In particular, it
4 is critical that the WTO recognize that major economic
5 powers like China should no longer avail themselves of
6 the special and differential treatment intended to
7 benefit developing countries.

8 Mr. Wilson will be the first Chief Innovation and
9 Intellectual Property Negotiator for the USTR, if
10 confirmed. The COVID-19 pandemic is receding, thanks to
11 the American innovators who developed highly effective
12 vaccines. We must have strong global intellectual
13 property protections in order to foster this type of
14 innovation. I welcome Mr. Wilson's commitment in
15 response to questions we submitted for the record to be
16 a vigorous advocate for American interests, and to
17 consult with my colleagues and me on our priorities.

18 Lastly, turning to the Department of Health and
19 Human Services, we have the nominations of Christie
20 Grimm and Samuel Bagenstos. Ms. Grimm has already
21 proven herself to be a capable Inspector General. I
22 deeply appreciate her work in combating waste, fraud,
23 and abuse at HHS, and ensuring that the Department
24 provides essential services to the public in an
25 efficient manner, especially through coordination with

1 other relevant agencies.

2 Finally, Mr. Bagenstos as HHS General Counsel will
3 have a critical role in helping formulate and explain
4 the rationale for policy. Some of my colleagues have
5 concerns with HHS's treatment of existing waivers,
6 concerns which I share. Other colleagues are concerned
7 about the administration's stance on abortion and Mr.
8 Bagenstos's past work on residential care facilities. I
9 share these concerns as well. Further, they cannot
10 ignore the administration's interpretation of current
11 law, especially in light of the Democrats' reckless tax
12 and spending proposals.

13 I share these concerns also, and unfortunately
14 cannot vote in favor of Mr. Bagenstos's nomination
15 today. We are covering a lot of ground with this
16 markup, and these six nominees will have influence
17 across the Finance Committee's jurisdiction. I look
18 forward to working with each of them.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 The Chairman. I thank my colleague. I want to make
21 it clear at this point that I strongly support each of
22 the nominees. I urge my colleagues to do so as well.
23 By unanimous consent I will put my own statement into
24 the record at this point, and we will reconvene at 10:30
25 in the President's Room. That will be between the

1 votes, and we can conduct our business at that time.

2 [The prepared statement of Chairman Wyden appears at
3 the end of the transcript.]

4 The Chairman. With that, the committee will
5 continue its business at 10:30 a.m.

6
7 [Whereupon, at 9:40 a.m., the meeting was recessed
8 to reconvene at 10:30 a.m.]

9

10 The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant
11 to notice, on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 10:30
12 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol,
13 Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

14 The Chairman. We will now continue the open
15 executive session from this morning to consider pending
16 nominations.

17 I would begin by entertaining a motion to
18 favorably report the nomination of Ms. Pagan.

19 Senator Crapo. So moved.

20 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

21 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

22 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

1 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

3 Senator Menendez. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

5 Senator Carper. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

7 Senator Cardin. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

9 Senator Brown. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

11 Senator Bennet. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

13 Senator Casey. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

15 Senator Warner. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

17 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

19 Senator Hassan. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

21 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

1 Senator Warren. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

3 Senator Crapo. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

5 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

7 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

9 Senator Thune. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

11 Senator Burr. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

13 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

15 Senator Toomey. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

17 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

19 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

21 Senator Lankford. No.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

1 Senator Daines. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

3 Senator Young. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

5 Senator Sasse. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

7 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

9 The Chairman. Aye.

10 The clerk will announce the vote.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 27
12 ayes, 1 nay.

13 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
14 nomination is ordered favorably reported. I would now
15 move the nomination of Mr. Neiman to be favorably
16 reported.

17 Senator Crapo. So moved.

18 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

19 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

20 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

22 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
2 Senator Menendez. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?
4 Senator Carper. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?
6 Senator Cardin. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?
8 Senator Brown. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
10 Senator Bennet. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
12 Senator Casey. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
14 Senator Warner. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
16 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
18 Senator Hassan. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
20 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
22 Senator Warren. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

2 Senator Crapo. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

4 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

6 Senator Cornyn. No.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

8 Senator Thune. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

10 Senator Burr. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

12 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

14 Senator Toomey. No.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

16 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

18 Senator Cassidy. No.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

20 Senator Lankford. No.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

22 Senator Daines. No.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

2 Senator Young. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

4 Senator Sasse. No.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

6 Senator Barrasso. No.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

8 The Chairman. Aye.

9 The clerk will announce the vote.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 20
11 eyes, 8 nays.

12 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
13 nomination is ordered favorably reported. I would now
14 move the nomination of Mr. Frost to be favorably
15 reported.

16 Senator Crapo. So moved.

17 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

19 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

21 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

1 Senator Menendez. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

3 Senator Carper. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

5 Senator Cardin. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

7 Senator Brown. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

9 Senator Bennet. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

11 Senator Casey. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

13 Senator Warner. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

15 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

17 Senator Hassan. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

19 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

21 Senator Warren. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

1 Senator Crapo. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

3 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

5 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

7 Senator Thune. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

9 Senator Burr. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

11 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

13 Senator Toomey. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

15 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

17 Senator Cassidy. No.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

19 Senator Lankford. No.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

21 Senator Daines. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

1 Senator Young. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

3 Senator Sasse. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

5 Senator Barrasso. No.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

7 The Chairman. Aye.

8 The clerk will announce the vote.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 24
10 ayes, 4 nays.

11 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
12 nomination is ordered favorably reported. I would now
13 move the nomination of Mr. Bagentos to be favorably
14 reported.

15 Senator Stabenow. So moved.

16 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

17 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

18 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

20 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

22 Senator Menendez. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?
2 Senator Carper. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?
4 Senator Cardin. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?
6 Senator Brown. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
8 Senator Bennet. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
10 Senator Casey. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
12 Senator Warner. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
14 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
16 Senator Hassan. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
18 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
20 Senator Warren. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
22 Senator Crapo. No.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
2 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
4 Senator Cornyn. No.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
6 Senator Thune. No.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
8 Senator Burr. No.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
10 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
12 Senator Toomey. No.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
14 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
16 Senator Cassidy. No.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
18 Senator Lankford. No.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
20 Senator Daines. No.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
22 Senator Young. No.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

2 Senator Sasse. No.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

4 Senator Barrasso. No.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

6 The Chairman. Aye.

7 The clerk will announce the vote.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
9 ayes, 14 nays.

10 The Chairman. In accordance with section 3 of
11 Senate Resolution 27, notice will be transmitted to the
12 Secretary of the Senate, thereby giving either Majority
13 or Minority Leader the authority to make a motion to
14 discharge the nomination. I would now move the
15 nomination of Mr. Wilson to be favorably reported.

16 Senator Crapo. So moved.

17 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

19 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

21 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

1 Senator Menendez. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

3 Senator Carper. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

5 Senator Cardin. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

7 Senator Brown. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

9 Senator Bennet. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

11 Senator Casey. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

13 Senator Warner. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

15 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

17 Senator Hassan. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

19 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

21 Senator Warren. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

1 Senator Crapo. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

3 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

5 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

7 Senator Thune. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

9 Senator Burr. No.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

11 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

13 Senator Toomey. No.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

15 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

17 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

19 Senator Lankford. No.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

21 Senator Daines. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

1 Senator Young. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

3 Senator Sasse. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

5 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

7 The Chairman. Aye.

8 The clerk will announce the vote.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 24
10 ayes, 4 nays.

11 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
12 nomination is ordered favorably reported. I would begin
13 by entertaining a motion to favorably report the
14 nomination of Ms. Grimm.

15 Senator Crapo. So moved.

16 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

17 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

18 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

20 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

22 Senator Menendez. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?
2 Senator Carper. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?
4 Senator Cardin. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?
6 Senator Brown. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
8 Senator Bennet. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
10 Senator Casey. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
12 Senator Warner. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
14 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
16 Senator Hassan. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
18 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
20 Senator Warren. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
22 Senator Crapo. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
2 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
4 Senator Cornyn. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
6 Senator Thune. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
8 Senator Burr. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
10 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
12 Senator Toomey. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
14 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
16 Senator Cassidy. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
18 Senator Lankford. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
20 Senator Daines. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
22 Senator Young. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

2 Senator Sasse. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

4 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

6 The Chairman. Aye.

7 The clerk will announce the vote.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 28
9 ayes, 0 nays.

10 I thank my colleagues, and with that, we are
11 adjourned.

12 [Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the meeting was
13 concluded.]

	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
1		
2	Hon. Ron Wyden,	3
3	A U.S. Senator from Oregon,	
4	chairman, Committee on Finance	
5		
6	Hon. Mike Crapo,	4
7	a U.S. Senator from Idaho	

1 PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM OREGON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

3

4 The Finance Committee meets this morning to vote on
5 six nominations for important roles in three Federal
6 agencies. I'll have brief remarks on each before I turn
7 it over to Senator Crapo and any other members who wish
8 to speak.

9 María Pagán is President Biden's nominee to serve
10 as a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and our envoy to
11 the WTO in Geneva. She currently serves as USTR's
12 Deputy General Counsel, and she's also been a WTO
13 litigator for the U.S. She's an ideal nominee and she
14 knows exactly what it takes to get the best possible
15 outcomes in high-stakes trade negotiations for American
16 workers and businesses.

17 Chris Wilson is President Biden's nominee to serve
18 as USTR's Chief Innovation and Intellectual Property
19 Negotiator. This position was created by the Finance
20 Committee in a bill called the Trade Facilitation and
21 Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, and today marks the
22 first time the committee will vote on a nominee for
23 this role.

24 This is about ensuring that our trade policies
25 reflect our modern, high-tech economy, and balance the

1 interests of IP owners, innovators, tech users, and the
2 public at large. Mr. Wilson's decades of service in a
3 variety of roles at USTR make him a highly qualified
4 nominee for this new position.

5 Joshua Frost is President Biden's nominee to serve
6 as Assistant Treasury Secretary for Financial Markets.
7 He brings to his nomination 20 years of experience at
8 the Federal Reserve, during which he's worked on the
9 responses to economic crashes and unemployment spikes.
10 He's nominated to a role that's all about protecting
11 the integrity and stability of our economy and our
12 financial system, which makes his experience highly
13 valuable.

14 Dr. Brent Neiman is President Biden's nominee to
15 serve as Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury for
16 International Finance and Development. One of the
17 issues he'll work on when he's confirmed is fixing
18 global supply chains that are still tangled and
19 bottlenecked as a result of the pandemic. This is one
20 of the most urgent economic issues out there today, and
21 it affects just about every American household right up
22 to the largest businesses in the country. That means
23 there's no time for the Senate to waste on moving this
24 nomination forward.

25 Sam Bagenstos is President Biden's nominee to serve

1 as General Counsel to the Department of Health and
2 Human Services. Mr. Bagenstos is a highly accomplished
3 lawyer and public servant. He's argued cases before the
4 Supreme Court dealing with protections for workers and
5 Americans with disabilities. He's served as Principal
6 Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He
7 is currently the General Counsel to the Office of
8 Management and Budget. He's highly qualified to serve
9 as HHS General Counsel, and he'll be a valuable member
10 of Secretary Becerra's team.

11 Finally, Christi Grimm is the President's nominee
12 to serve as the Inspector General for the Department of
13 Health and Human Services. There's no questioning her
14 qualifications for this role. She's served within the
15 Office of the Inspector General for more than 2
16 decades. Currently she serves as Principal Deputy
17 Inspector General, and she's been performing the role
18 of the IG for more than a year. This committee takes
19 its oversight role very seriously and believes in good
20 government, so we look forward to working with Ms.
21 Grimm in the months and years ahead.

22 All six of these nominees are highly qualified and
23 highly experienced. I'm happy to support all of them
24 today, and I urge my colleagues on both sides to do the
25 same.