

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF SARAH BIANCHI, JAYME RAY WHITE, AND
3 MELANIE ANNE EGORIN
4 TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021
5 U.S. Senate,
6 Committee on Finance,
7 Washington, DC.

8
9 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
10 9:50 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
11 Building, Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee)
12 presiding.

13 Present: Senators Stabenow, Cantwell, Brown, Casey,
14 Warner, Whitehouse, Hassan, Cortez Masto, Warren, Crapo,
15 Thune, Lankford, and Daines.

16 Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans,
17 Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; Sally Laing,
18 Senior International Trade Counsel; Ian Nicholson,
19 Investigator/Nominations Advisor; and Joshua Sheinkman,
20 Staff Director. Republican staff: Lincoln Foran,
21 Policy Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy
22 Director; Mayur Patel, Chief International Trade
23 Counsel; Gregg Richard, Staff Director, and Jeffrey
24 Wrase, Deputy Staff Director and Chief Economist.

25

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. This morning the Committee takes up three
6 nominations, two for Deputy Trade Representative, one
7 for Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.
8 It is going to be a busy morning. We have got a lot of
9 committees conducting business. To assure that we have
10 a quorum, we will have a vote on the nominations as soon
11 as a quorum is present, and I will have a brief
12 introductory statement, and Senator Crapo will have a
13 brief introductory statement. Other members may have
14 introductory statements they want to give, as well.

15 So today we will vote on three nominations for
16 important roles within the Biden Administration. Dr.
17 Melanie Egorin, nominated to serve as the Assistant
18 Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health
19 and Human Services. She is currently a top staff member
20 on the House Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Neal
21 joined the committee for last month's nomination
22 hearing, and he talked about Dr. Egorin's
23 professionalism, her diligence, and her ability to bring
24 people together. He also spoke about her deep
25 experience on health policy. If and when Dr. Egorin is

1 confirmed, we are going to keep her busy, from mental
2 health care to prescription drug costs, to home- and
3 community-based services. She will have many
4 assignments.

5 The Finance Committee is hard at work on improving
6 health care in America. It is going to take a lot of
7 close collaboration with the Department of Health and
8 Human Services' Secretary Becerra and his team, and Dr.
9 Egorin is going to have a big role to play in the months
10 ahead.

11 Next up are two nominees for the position of Deputy
12 U.S. Trade Representative under Ambassador Tai, Sarah
13 Bianchi and Jayme White. Ms. Bianchi is a long-time
14 member of the Biden economic team who has served in a
15 number of different policy roles -- the Office of
16 Management and Budget, the Domestic Policy Council, the
17 Office of the Vice President, and she has also been a
18 staff member.

19 Jayme White is a familiar face, of course, to all of
20 us at the Finance Committee. He worked in our office in
21 2009 and has been the top trade and competitiveness
22 advisor for Senate Finance Democrats since 2014. I know
23 from experience that Jayme gets results. For example,
24 he was the key staff member responsible for passing the
25 Enforce Act in 2016, and it is now a key trade

1 enforcement tool that cuts through abuses to protect
2 American workers and American jobs.

3 As a result of Jayme and Ambassador Tai's work
4 during the previous Administration, the USMCA raised the
5 bar over any previous agreement when it comes to labor
6 and the environment. He is also, before we close on a
7 matter of I think important competitiveness for our
8 country, a leader on digital trade. He has also been
9 active on transparency and accountability issues.

10 These two trade nominees are, in my view, going to
11 build out an excellent trade team at the USTR. Both are
12 highly experienced and knowledgeable. Based on the
13 hearing, it is clear that both share Ambassador Tai's
14 commitments to bringing both sides together around
15 policies that, in my characterization, are about trade
16 done right.

17 With Ambassador having been confirmed by a very
18 close vote of 98 to nothing, it is clear there is a
19 strong interest in bipartisan trade. So I intend to
20 support both of the nominees. I hope colleagues will do
21 the same.

22 Senator Crapo?

23

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

3

4 Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are
5 here to vote on the nominations of Ms. Bianchi and Mr.
6 White as Deputy U.S. Trade Representatives and on the
7 nomination of Dr. Egorin as HHS Assistant Secretary for
8 Legislation.

9 I intend to support all three nominations. However,
10 today also highlights the Administration has yet to
11 nominate anyone to fill a number of vacancies critical
12 to ensuring that the United States has an effective
13 trade policy.

14 With respect to the Office of the U.S. Trade
15 Representative, those positions include the Chief IP
16 Negotiator, the Chief Agriculture Negotiator, and the
17 U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization.

18 To press forward to a successful economic recovery,
19 we need now, more than ever, to tear down barriers
20 between our businesses, farmers, and workers and the
21 billions of customers beyond our borders.

22 With respect to my votes for the trade nominees,
23 each stress they intend to work closely with Congress,
24 and Mr. White further assured us at his confirmation
25 hearing that he would do so promptly. I appreciate

1 that. But the Administration's continuing efforts to
2 support a waiver for the WTO TRIPS Agreement to fail in
3 regard to any consultation with Congress, prompt or
4 otherwise, the decision to go it alone two months ago
5 raises a number of significant concerns, including
6 whether the Administration will even try to prevent
7 extending any potential waiver to China and Russia.

8 We still do not know, and it is contrary to
9 Ambassador Tai's own statement to this committee in May,
10 whether she would consult before and after each round of
11 negotiations. Ms. Bianchi and Mr. White, I expect that,
12 if confirmed, you will relate to your Administration
13 colleagues they need to do better, especially when the
14 Constitution provides that Congress is not just the
15 potential partner when it comes to its own trade
16 agreements, it is the boss.

17 Dr. Egorin has expressed a clear understanding of
18 the importance of a strong working relationship with
19 Congress. As a veteran staffer of the White House -- of
20 the House Ways and Means Committee, Dr. Egorin garnered
21 the support and recommendation of both Chair Neal and
22 Ranking Member Brady, as well as their respective staff.

23 I appreciated Dr. Egorin's commitment in the hearing
24 and in answers to QFRs to being responsive and
25 transparent, and I intend to support her nomination.

1 Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for holding this
2 markup today.

3 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Crapo. We are
4 waiting for about three or four more members, and I want
5 to recognize colleagues -- we will just go back and
6 forth -- who would like to make short statements.

7 Anyone on the Democratic side wish to make a
8 statement?

9 [No response.]

10 The Chairman. Anyone on the Republican side wishing
11 to make a statement?

12 Senator Cantwell. Mr. Chairman?

13 The Chairman. Senator Cantwell.

14 Senator Cantwell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
15 glad we are having this markup today, and very much
16 appreciate -- I think Mr. White originally worked for my
17 colleague, Congressman McDermott and then came and
18 joined your team. I am glad that he has had experience
19 on the Washington -- our Washington economy. One in
20 three jobs are related to trade, and the fact that one
21 in three jobs are related to trade means that we want to
22 see aggressive trade policy. And this comes from a
23 variety of sources, from manufacturing, from
24 agriculture, from resolution on software issues, a whole
25 variety of things.

1 The Administration could just have an agenda on
2 digital trade and make success, and it would be very
3 much a foot towards the future of resolving issues for a
4 very big part of our economy.

5 So I hope Mr. White will bring that perspective and
6 knowledge from the Pacific Northwest to the table with
7 the Administration. I definitely think that our trade
8 policies need to be done from the top rung of the
9 ladder. That is, that the United States should be
10 advocating trade policy in a variety of ways. The fact
11 that 95 percent of consumers live outside of the United
12 States, and if we want to grow our economy, we are going
13 to have to grow the trade economy, and we are going to
14 have to grow the export economy.

15 So I hope that we move these nominees quickly, and
16 that we build the team at USTR. You know, Mr. Chairman,
17 we worked with you on capacity building at USTR, on a
18 resolution of these issues that we did with our
19 colleague, the former Speaker of the House, to build
20 capacity at USTR. That is, to give them more lawyers to
21 resolve trade disputes. The results were phenomenal.
22 The more people we had addressing trade injustices in
23 the international community, the more success we had in
24 getting our products or our exports in the door.

25 So I am all for USTR being an agency of the future

1 with as robust a muscle as they can possibly have, and
2 with as much attention as we can put into USTR. I mean
3 this sincerely. If 95 percent of consumers are outside
4 the United States, if our economy is going to grow by
5 exports, then USTR has to be an agency that is robust
6 enough to handle the disputes that happen at an
7 international basis.

8 So, anyway, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the
9 indulgence and thank you for letting me talk about how
10 important trade is to the Pacific Northwest. Thank you.

11 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Cantwell. And you
12 have always been our go-to person on trade from the
13 Pacific Northwest, and growing things and making things,
14 and adding value to them and shipping all over the
15 planet. So a big thanks.

16 Colleagues, my sense is we are not going to have
17 enough people to vote, but I will say if Senators want
18 to make statements with respect to the nominees and then
19 we will vote off the floor. Do any colleagues on the
20 Republican side want to make statements about any of
21 these nominees?

22 Senator Thune. Mr. Chairman, so will a vote occur
23 off the floor?

24 The Chairman. Yes, we will vote off the floor and
25 give everybody notice. Okay, thank you all.

1 [Whereupon, at 10 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]

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

5 Present: Senators Stabenow, Cantwell, Menendez,
6 Carper, Cardin, Brown, Bennet, Casey, Warner,
7 Whitehouse, Hassan, Cortez Masto, Warren, Crapo,
8 Grassley, Cornyn, Thune, Burr, Portman, Toomey,
9 Lankford, Daines, Sasse, and Barrasso.

10 Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans,
11 Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; and Joshua
12 Sheinkman, Staff Director. Republican staff: Gregg
13 Richard, Staff Director; and Jeffrey Wrase, Deputy Staff
14 Director and Chief Economist.

1 The Chairman. Today we continue the open executive
2 session from this morning to consider three nominations.
3 The first nominee we will consider is Sarah Bianchi,
4 nominated to be Deputy United States Trade
5 Representative.

6 I would entertain a motion to favorably report the
7 nomination of Ms. Bianchi.

8 Senator Crapo. So moved.

9 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

10 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

11 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

13 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

15 Senator Menendez. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

17 Senator Carper. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

19 Senator Cardin. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

21 Senator Brown. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

1 Senator Bennet. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

3 Senator Casey. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

5 Senator Warner. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

7 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

9 Senator Hassan. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

11 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

13 Senator Warren. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

15 Senator Crapo. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

17 Senator Grassley. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

19 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

21 Senator Thune. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

1 Senator Burr. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

3 Senator Portman. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

5 Senator Toomey. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

7 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

9 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

11 Senator Lankford. No.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

13 Senator Daines. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

15 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

17 Senator Sasse. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

19 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

21 The Chairman. Aye.

22 The clerk will announce the vote.

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

3 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
4 nomination is ordered favorably reported.

5 The next nomination is Jayme White to be Deputy
6 United States Trade Representative. I would entertain a
7 motion to favorably report the nomination of Mr. White.

8 Senator Crapo. So moved.

9 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

10 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

11 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

13 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

15 Senator Menendez. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

17 Senator Carper. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

19 Senator Cardin. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

21 Senator Brown. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

1 Senator Bennet. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

3 Senator Casey. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

5 Senator Warner. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

7 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

9 Senator Hassan. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

11 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

13 Senator Warren. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

15 Senator Crapo. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

17 Senator Grassley. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

19 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

21 Senator Thune. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

1 Senator Burr. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

3 Senator Portman. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

5 Senator Toomey. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

7 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

9 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

11 Senator Lankford. No.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

13 Senator Daines. No.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

15 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

17 Senator Sasse. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

19 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

21 The Chairman. Aye.

22 The clerk will announce the vote.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 25
2 ayes, 3 nays.

3 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
4 nomination is ordered favorably reported. The next
5 nomination is Melanie Egorin to be an Assistant
6 Secretary of the Health and Human Services. I would
7 entertain a motion to favorably report the nomination
8 of Ms. Egorin.

9 Senator Crapo. So moved.

10 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

11 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

12 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

14 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

16 Senator Menendez. Aye.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

18 Senator Carper. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

20 Senator Cardin. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

22 Senator Brown. Aye.

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

1 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

2 Senator Burr. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

4 Senator Portman. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

6 Senator Toomey. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

8 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

10 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

12 Senator Lankford. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

14 Senator Daines. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

16 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

18 Senator Sasse. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

20 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

22 The Chairman. Aye.

1 The clerk will announce the vote.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 28
3 eyes, 0 nays.

4 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. I thank my
5 colleagues for their time. The committee is adjourned.

6 [Whereupon, at 12:09 p.m., the meeting was
7 concluded.]

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