

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF HON. MARIA LOUISE LAGO, TO BE UNDER
3 SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF
4 COMMERCE; AND LISA W. WANG, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
5 FOR ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE, INTERNATIONAL TRADE
6 ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

7 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

8 U.S. Senate,

9 Committee on Finance,

10 Washington, DC.

11

12 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
13 9:37 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon.
14 Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

15 Present: Senator Crapo.

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

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

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4 The Chairman. This meeting will come to order.
5 Today we meet to consider two pending nominations of
6 Maria Louise Lago and Lisa Wang to take on important
7 roles at the Commerce Department.

8 This morning we have a lot of committees here in the
9 Senate conducting business, and certainly we have a lot
10 of Finance members with challenging schedules today.

11 We had some consultations with our friend, Ranking
12 Member Senator Crapo, and here is how we are going to
13 proceed. We will use this time to make statements about
14 the nominees. I will make a short statement, followed
15 by Senator Crapo, and followed by any other Finance
16 members who would like to make statements.

17 At that point, we intend to recess until the next
18 roll call vote on the Senate floor, when the committee
19 will reconvene in the President's Room off the floor to
20 have the vote, if that is acceptable. The vote is
21 expected at 11:30 a.m., and I believe that is acceptable
22 to my colleague, Senator Crapo.

23 So, our first nominee will be Marisa Lago, who is
24 nominated to serve as Under Secretary of Commerce for
25 International Trade. Once confirmed, she would head up

1 the International Trade Administration. This is a job
2 with big responsibilities: enforcement of trade laws to
3 protect and create American jobs, breaking down barriers
4 to our exports, and leveling the playing field for small
5 and medium-sized businesses.

6 Ms. Lago is a very experienced public official. In
7 the Obama administration she served as Assistant
8 Treasury Secretary for International Markets
9 Development. She led the Office of International
10 Affairs at the Securities and Exchange Commission. She
11 was a top economic development official for New York
12 State and the city of Boston. So that makes her a
13 strong pick to lead the ITA.

14 Next up, Lisa Wang is nominated to serve as
15 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and
16 Compliance. Anybody who has followed our committee on
17 trade policy knows that we take a special interest in
18 vigorous trade enforcement. That is what this job is
19 all about, cracking down hard on trade cheats and
20 holding other countries to their commitments in order to
21 protect American jobs and give American workers and
22 businesses more opportunities to get ahead.

23 Ms. Wang also is highly experienced, particularly in
24 enforcement issues, having previously served as a senior
25 attorney in the Trade Enforcement and Compliance Office

1 at the Commerce Department. She also served as
2 Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the U.S.
3 Trade Representative, and has extensive experience in
4 private practice. Strong trade enforcement is her area
5 of legal expertise. These are roles with a clear focus
6 that is very important to this committee.

7 Senator Crapo and I have talked often about the
8 priority of focusing on creating good jobs and
9 opportunities for American workers by getting trade done
10 right. I am confident that Ms. Lago and Ms. Wang will
11 have a lot of success. Both nominees have my full
12 support. I urge the committee members on both sides of
13 the aisle to support them as well.

14 And we will turn it over now to Senator Crapo for
15 his opening remarks. And should there be any other
16 members who wish to speak, that is appropriate now as
17 well.

18 Senator Crapo?

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

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4 Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Today we are voting on two nominees who, if
6 confirmed, will play important roles in shaping U.S.
7 trade policy at the Department of Commerce. I intend to
8 support each.

9 Ms. Lago, in your opening statement at your
10 nomination hearing you noted that you believed in the
11 power of trade and investment to improve lives. I share
12 that view. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Commerce
13 for International Trade, I expect that you will be a
14 vigorous champion for expanding market access
15 opportunities that Americans need today. This
16 administration can and must do more on this front.

17 Ms. Wang, you have extensive trade remedy
18 experience. Our trade remedy laws are important tools
19 to combat unfair trade. Despite a deferential standard
20 of review, U.S. courts routinely find that the
21 Department of Commerce's determinations are not
22 supported by substantial evidence. This must change.

23 Our citizens rely on effective administration of
24 U.S. trade remedy laws. If confirmed as Assistant
25 Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, I want you to

1 ensure that the Department of Commerce's trade remedy
2 determinations are of the highest quality.

3 Thank you for holding this executive session today,
4 Mr. Chairman, and I yield back to you.

5 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Crapo. So once
6 again, it is our intent, because we wish to advance
7 these nominations, to vote on them, to reconvene in the
8 President's Room off the floor to have this vote, I
9 expect, at 11:30 a.m. And the committee will reconvene
10 in the President's Room.

11 Thank you, Senator Crapo.

12 [Whereupon, at 9:42 a.m., the meeting was recessed,
13 to reconvene at 11:30 a.m.]

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15 The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant
16 to notice, on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 11:30
17 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol,
18 Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

19 The Chairman. We will now continue the open
20 executive session from this morning to consider the
21 nominations of Maria Lago and Lisa Wang.

22 I would entertain a motion to favorably report the
23 nomination of Ms. Lago.

24 Senator Crapo. So moved.

25 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

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

1 Senator Warren. Aye.
2 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
3 Senator Crapo. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
5 Senator Grassley. Aye.
6 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
7 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
8 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
9 Senator Thune. Aye.
10 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
11 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
12 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
13 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
14 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
15 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
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?
23 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
24 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
25 Senator Young. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

2 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

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 27
9 ayes, 1 nay.

10 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
11 nomination is ordered favorably reported.

12 I would now entertain a motion to favorably report
13 the nomination of Ms. Wang.

14 Senator Crapo. So moved.

15 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

16 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

17 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

19 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

21 Senator Menendez. No.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

23 Senator Carper. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

25 Senator Cardin. Aye.

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

1 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

3 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

5 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

7 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

9 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

11 Senator Lankford. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

13 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

15 Senator Young. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

17 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

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.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 27

24 ayes, 1 nay.

25 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The

1 nomination is ordered favorably reported.

2 I thank my colleagues, and with that the committee
3 is adjourned.

4 [Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the meeting was
5 concluded.]

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