

worked with Mr. Andrews in Delaware. I thank Senator COONS for chairing the committee's hearing on Mr. Andrews' nominations and for working hard to move it through the committee and Senate process.

The Senate must come together to address the serious judicial vacancies crisis on Federal courts around the country that has persisted for well over 2 years. We can and must do better for the more than 163 million Americans being made to suffer by these unnecessary Senate delays.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today the Senate will confirm two more judicial nominees, which will be the 52nd and 53rd article III confirmations of this Congress. We have confirmed 17 judges in the past 30 days.

I may sound like a broken record, but despite what others have said, we have and continue to make real progress on consensus nominees. We have taken positive action on 85 percent of the judicial nominees submitted by President Obama this year. Over 91 percent of nominees submitted during President Obama's Presidency have had their hearing. With these votes, only during 8 of the last 30 years has the Senate confirmed more judicial nominees than we have done during this year.

I would like to say a few words about the nominees, both of whom I support.

Scott Wesley Skavdahl is nominated to be a district court judge for the District of Wyoming. He is a graduate from the University of Wyoming and their College of Law. Judge Skavdahl began his legal career in 1992 as an associate attorney at the law firm of Brown, Drew, Massey & Sullivan. After 2 years with the firm, he departed for a 3-year clerkship with the Honorable William F. Downes on the District Court for the District of Wyoming.

In 1997, he returned to private practice at the firm Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, where he made partner in 2000. From 2001 to 2003, Judge Skavdahl served as a part-time U.S. magistrate judge. He also served as a State district judge for the Seventh Judicial District of Wyoming from 2003 to 2011. In February 2011, Judge Skavdahl was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Wyoming, a post he holds to this day.

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Judge Skavdahl with a unanimous "well qualified" rating.

Richard G. Andrews is nominated to be a district judge for the District of Delaware. Mr. Andrews received his bachelor of arts from Haverford College in 1977 and a juris doctorate from the University of California at Berkley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1981.

He began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Collins J. Seitz, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Ap-

peals for the Third Circuit. Mr. Andrews then joined the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware as a Federal law clerk. After a year in that position, he was named an assistant U.S. attorney.

Mr. Andrews spent the next 24 years in that office, handling a mix of criminal and civil cases in Federal district court. He has served on three occasions as acting or interim U.S. attorney, was first assistant for a number of years in the office, and served as chief of the Criminal Division.

Since 2007, Mr. Andrews has served as State prosecutor within the Delaware Department of Justice.

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Mr. Andrews with a substantial majority "well qualified," minority "qualified" rating.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields back time?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I yield back all time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the nomination of Richard G. Andrews, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware is confirmed.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Scott Wesley Skavdahl, of Wyoming, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming?

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Akaka	Carper	Graham
Alexander	Casey	Grassley
Ayotte	Chambliss	Hagan
Barrasso	Coats	Harkin
Baucus	Cochran	Hatch
Begich	Collins	Hoeven
Bennet	Conrad	Hutchinson
Bingaman	Coons	Inhofe
Blumenthal	Corker	Inouye
Blunt	Cornyn	Isakson
Boozman	Crapo	Johanns
Brown (MA)	DeMint	Johnson (SD)
Brown (OH)	Enzi	Johnson (WI)
Burr	Feinstein	Kerry
Cantwell	Franken	Kirk
Cardin	Gillibrand	Klobuchar

Kohl	Moran	Sessions
Kyl	Murkowski	Shaheen
Landrieu	Murray	Shelby
Lautenberg	Nelson (NE)	Snowe
Leahy	Nelson (FL)	Stabenow
Lee	Paul	Tester
Levin	Portman	Thune
Lieberman	Pryor	Toomey
Lugar	Reed	Udall (CO)
Manchin	Reid	Udall (NM)
McCain	Risch	Vitter
McCaskill	Roberts	Warner
McConnell	Rockefeller	Webb
Menendez	Rubio	Whitehouse
Merkley	Sanders	Wicker
Mikulski	Schumer	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Durbin
Coburn	Heller

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from Vermont.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, after the vote today, I think that any effort to pass a bill such as the ones we just voted on would be very difficult. But something good does happen from that; that is, we had the vast majority of people in the Chamber recognizing that we need to do something that would be stimulative to the economy—something unlike the stimulus bill we had before, where only 3 percent of the money actually went to building roads, highways, maintenance, and that type of thing.

I do appreciate the fact that we are now in a position where I think, with this behind us, we can be looking at a good, legitimate highway transportation reauthorization bill. I have been working very closely with Senators BOXER, VITTER, and BAUCUS—we are considered the "big four" in the Environment and Public Works Committee—to come up with something. I have to say that we have worked very hard, and I am talking about hours and hours. Anytime you can get Senator BARBARA BOXER from California and me to agree on something, you know we have gone through a lot of work—