

Justice Parrish, who currently sits on the Utah Supreme Court, is extraordinarily well-prepared to fill this vacancy, and I hope and expect that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support her nomination.

Justice Parrish is a well-known and highly regarded leader in the Utah legal community, who has served with honor and distinction on the Supreme Court of Utah. Her sharp legal mind, breadth of experience, and impressive judicial temperament prepared her to serve on the Federal bench. I cannot think of a more qualified nominee to fill this vacancy at this time. I support Justice Parrish's nomination in the strongest possible terms, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

As a former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I have long worked to secure confirmations for the most qualified judicial nominees. In fact, I have participated in the appointment of three-quarters of the judges who have ever served on the U.S. District Court for the District Utah. That experience has given me a sense, both personally and professionally, of the kind of individual who will serve well on the Federal bench. That experience gives me every reason to strongly recommend Justice Parrish for this appointment.

Justice Parrish is a talented jurist with an impressive background. After graduating from Yale Law School, she distinguished herself in private practice before appointment to the Utah Supreme Court. During her 30-year service, she has established a record of excellence both before and behind the bench, in both State and Federal courts, in both the private and public sector, and in both trial and appellate courts.

The American Bar Association gave Justice Parrish a "well-qualified" rating—a distinction the organization only awards to experienced nominees with the most remarkable legal ability and the highest reputation for integrity. Federal nominees who receive the "well-qualified" rating are also known for their breadth of experience, their success in the legal community, and their capacity for judicial temperament.

Not only does Justice Parrish match the ABA's requirements, but in every respect, she exceeds them. The United States has the most respected judiciary in the world, and we expect our nominees to the Federal bench to have a record of accomplishment in their chosen area of legal expertise. Justice Parrish is remarkable in that she has not just one but multiple areas of expertise, bringing keen judgment to an appointment that requires a broad range of experiences.

I have every confidence that Justice Parrish will serve admirably as a district judge, just as she has served honorably on the Utah Supreme Court. I might say, in supporting her confirmation, I wish to thank Senator LEE, who is not only my colleague on the Judiciary

Committee but also my partner in representing our great State and in recommending the best candidate for judicial appointment. We agree that Justice Parrish is a well-qualified nominee, and we strongly recommend her swift and unanimous confirmation. I call on my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats alike—to support her nomination.

I know this woman personally. I know her very, very well. All of the qualities I have been speaking about I have personally observed.

I think everybody here knows how seriously I take appointments to the Federal bench. In this particular case, I feel very, very good about this nomination. I ask my colleagues to vote for her.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, we will have the opportunity in a few moments to vote on a friend and colleague, Jill Parrish, who serves currently on the Utah Supreme Court. She has been nominated by President Obama to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, replacing Federal Judge Dee Benson, with whom I have clerked.

I can think of no one better to replace Judge Benson than Justice Parrish. She is a friend, she is a respected jurist, and she is a dedicated citizen. She is a friend to all who know her.

I am honored to have the opportunity to vote for her today, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jill N. Parrish, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah?

Mr. LEE. Mr. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Donnelly	Manchin
Ayotte	Durbin	Markey
Baldwin	Enzi	McCain
Barrasso	Ernst	McCaskill
Bennet	Feinstein	McConnell
Blumenthal	Fischer	Menendez
Blunt	Flake	Merkley
Booker	Franken	Mikulski
Boozman	Gardner	Moran
Boxer	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Brown	Graham	Murphy
Burr	Grassley	Murray
Cantwell	Hatch	Nelson
Capito	Heinrich	Paul
Cardin	Heitkamp	Perdue
Carper	Heller	Peters
Casey	Hirono	Portman
Cassidy	Hoeven	Reed
Coats	Inhofe	Reid
Cochran	Isakson	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Roberts
Coons	Kaine	Rounds
Corker	King	Rubio
Cornyn	Kirk	Sanders
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sasse
Crapo	Lankford	Schatz
Cruz	Leahy	Schumer
Daines	Lee	Scott

Sessions	Thune	Warren
Shaheen	Tillis	Whitehouse
Shelby	Toomey	Wicker
Stabenow	Udall	Wyden
Sullivan	Vitter	
Tester	Warner	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON OLVERA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas?

Mr. BURR. Mr. 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 result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Roberts
Boxer	Heller	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Sessions
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Fischer	Murray	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am sure everybody is interested in the state of play. Chairman HATCH and Senator WYDEN are meeting off the floor to try to identify a path forward. We would like to get more amendments pending and set some votes for later this evening.

I hope we will have an update from the bill managers here shortly, but I want to remind everybody, we are going to finish this bill before we leave. We are going to deal with FISA and we are going to deal with highways. There is a path forward, if people want to take it, that could complete all of this work at a reasonable time—probably sometime tomorrow—or we could make it difficult, but the end won't change. So I would just encourage at least some level of cooperation here because

we are doing TPA and we are doing FISA and we are doing highways.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON CAHILL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Patricia D. Cahill, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCARANO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Scarano, of New Hampshire, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Northern Border Regional Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, free trade is very important to our country and to our future economic prosperity. Anyone who does not believe that is in denial, in my opinion. We live in a global economy and we need to lead on the issue of free trade.

We must not make excuses and cower away from the opportunity in front of us.

The trade promotion authority legislation we are considering is a critical tool for the advancement of our economic interest throughout the world.

This legislation is also proof that Congress and the administration can work together to increase economic opportunity for Americans across all 50 States.

Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN have worked for months to get us to this point. I commend them for this effort and I look forward to working with them to finish this process.

We know that 80 percent of the purchasing power in the world is located outside the United States, along with 95 percent of the world's consumers.

As the middle class expands in regions such as Asia, we have to make sure our businesses and workers have the ability to take advantage of the opportunity that growth presents.

Some estimates predict the middle class in Asia is going to swell from half

a billion people to over 3 billion people in just the next 15 years. Are we going to sit on the sidelines while other countries gain preferential access to those consumers?

Governor Branstad of Iowa, recognizing the benefits of trade, sent a letter to me this week outlining his support for trade promotion authority. The letter was signed by 74 other Iowans who represent businesses and associations that also believe it is critical that Congress pass TPA.

The letter states:

Quite simply, international trade is important to Iowa's businesses, workers and farmers. A vote for leveling the playing field in international trade is a vote for Iowa.

I couldn't agree more with Governor Branstad on that point.

Last year, U.S. exports equaled \$2.35 trillion and supported nearly 12 million jobs. Can any of us imagine our unemployment rate without trade supporting 12 million jobs?

In Iowa alone, 448,000 jobs are dependent on trade, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. And those jobs pay 18 percent higher wages on average because they are tied to trade.

Americans know the benefits of trade. And we know that American businesses and workers are some of the most efficient and productive in the world. We just need to make sure they have the opportunity to succeed.

That is why we are considering this bill—to expand economic opportunities for American businesses and workers.

Free-trade agreements that lower trade barriers in other countries can do an amazing thing—they can stimulate our economy through exports without requiring additional spending.

During testimony to the Senate Finance Committee, Trade Representative Froman pointed out that the U.S. is already an open marketplace with tariffs that average just 1.6 percent, some of the lowest in the world. Yet at the same time, our companies face very high tariffs in other markets. Some agricultural products face tariffs up to 400 percent, machinery can be up to 50 percent.

We cannot let the status quo on trade, where we have an open marketplace while our businesses face extremely high tariffs, continue. Trade agreements set the stage for long-term opportunity. The citizens in Iowa who may benefit the most from more trade with Pacific rim countries are probably still in school. We can help their future today.

Iowa exported \$15.1 billion in 2014. That represents a 135 percent increase compared to a decade earlier. \$9 billion, or 60 percent of the exports went to TPP countries under current trade rules. Imagine what is possible just in Iowa if we reduce barriers in that region.

Roughly, \$3.6 billion worth of machinery assembled by Iowa workers alone was exported last year. The goal of the legislation before us is to increase that number.

According to the Department of Agriculture, fiscal years 2010–2014 represent the strongest 5 years of agricultural exports in the history of our country. We exported \$675 billion worth of agricultural goods during that period.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership would create more opportunities for our farmers and ranchers in a region of the world that represents 39 percent of global GDP. You heard me correctly, we have a chance to give our farmers, ranchers, and businesses better access to markets that represent over one-third of global GDP.

And while I support and believe in the immense benefits of free trade, I also oppose countries tilting the field in their favor through actions like undervaluing their currency. An undervalued currency makes export goods cheaper from the country with the cheaper currency and also makes it harder for consumers in that country to purchase foreign goods, like our agricultural products.

I support addressing currency manipulation in our trade agreements. I have watched administrations of both parties put their heads in the sand on this issue. Everyone opposes currency manipulation, yet little ever gets done.

This TPA bill represents the modern realities we face from the global economy that need to be addressed by our trade negotiators.

The bill includes clear negotiating objectives for standards on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations that must be science-based. Having science-based standards will help limit disruptions to U.S. agricultural exports and even open up some new markets for our producers.

Negotiating objectives are offered related to digital trade in goods and cross-border dataflows that are new and unique issues for the time we now live in.

Clear guidance from Congress is also given for localization barriers and intellectual property rights. More transparency and consultations are also required of the administration.

This is a good bill that we need to pass so we can finish the free trade agreements we have been working on for years.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership and other trade agreements like the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, known as TTIP offer tremendous opportunity for our country and my home State of Iowa.

Throughout the world, there are an estimated 260 preferential trade agreements, the United States is only involved in 20 of them.

We must embrace our role in the world as the competitive economic powerhouse that we are. America is a country that leads, we have a chance to enter into a trade agreement that will set new rules and standards for one-third of the global economy.

Getting TPA through Congress and completing more free trade agreements in the future can unleash economic