placed on our producers.'' The Secretary finished by saying: ''Our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers will be well served by his counsel.''

I know the distinguished Presiding Officer has a strong interest and a hands-on background in agriculture, and so do many other Members of this body on both sides of the aisle. I am happy to strongly recommend Stephen Vaden to my colleagues. I urge a ''yes'' vote on ending the debate. Once that has ended, I urge a ''yes'' vote on confirmation of his nomination by President Trump.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Tim Scott, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Cory Gardner, Tom Cotton, Jerry Moran, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Stabenow
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Kyl	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Tillis
Donnelly	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Harris	Murray
Bennet	Hassan	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Jones	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Graham	Moran	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senate majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

CENTENNIAL OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recognize one of the greatest voices for Kentucky's agricultural communities, the Kentucky Farm Bureau, KFB, as it prepares to commemorate its centennial year. With a mission to identify the challenges facing farmers, to improve farm income, and to enhance the quality of life for growers, processors, and all of us who enjoy the fruits of their labors, the KFB has been a force for good throughout my home State. Since its establishment almost 100 years ago, the KFB has done all of this and more. I am so proud to have this opportunity to congratulate the men and women of the KFB on this impressive milestone.

In 1919, a small group of Kentucky farmers gathered in Louisville to form an organization to serve as the ''Voice of Kentucky Agriculture.'' Beginning as a member-based and member-driven organization, the KFB has proudly kept to its founding vision, striving each day to uphold that same goal.

In the last 100 years, the KFB has grown beyond anything its founders could have imagined. With nearly 500,000 members, the organization maintains a presence in all 120 counties in the Commonwealth. The KFB has developed many service programs to benefit its members and other parts of the agricultural community. These services include providing crop insurance products, Young Farmers development, public affairs representation, and estate planning assistance, just to name a few. As it celebrates its centennial year, the KFB can also be proud of being one of the largest State Farm Bureaus throughout the entire Nation.

Since my first day serving in the U.S. Senate, I have had the opportunity to be Kentucky's champion on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Every step of the way, the KFB has helped guide my work on that committee on behalf of my State's farm families. Through several agricultural bills—and countless fly-ins, the KFB has proved to be a partner I can rely upon to support Kentucky farmers. We have accomplished a great deal, and I look forward to many more projects we can work on together.

One particular event I look forward to each year is the KFB's annual country ham breakfast during the Kentucky State Fair. I make it a point to attend every year possible so I can not only have the opportunity to enjoy the delicious food, but also to spend quality time with the many friends of Kentucky agriculture I have gotten to know over the years. The tradition began in 1964 as a way to showcase our agricultural products during the Kentucky State Fair, and it has grown into one of the Nation's premier agricultural events. Each year, thousands of Kentuckians from across the Commonwealth gather to enjoy some of the best locally sourced food our State's farmers have to offer. The morning culminates in a charity auction of the blue-ribbon country ham. This year, the winning bid was a record-breaking $2.8 million to be donated to Kentucky charities. While the ham breakfast may be among its best-known public events, it is just one example of the KFB's many accomplishments.

Throughout 2019, I hear the KFB plans to celebrate its century of successes on behalf of Kentucky's farmers. I would like to recognize the contributions of the organization's leadership, in particular Mark Haney and his executive team. They are wonderful representatives of the KFB and proud advocates for farmers. With their guidance, the KFB has a bright future ahead.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in the recognition of the KFB, its members, and all who have benefited from its century of service to Kentucky. The organization's unmatched dedication to farmers and commitment to agricultural advancement continues

to serve the KFB's mission well. I look forward to its continued successes, and I am grateful for the chance to publicly join the KFB in celebrating this anniversary and to offer my thanks for everything it does to support farm families in the Commonwealth.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 18–39, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency for defense articles and services estimated to cost $320.5 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18–39

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) as Lead Nation for Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $240.5 million.

Other $80.0 million.

Total $320.5 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Five hundred (500) KMU–556 F/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Kits for GBU–31 2000-lbs.

Forty (40) KMU–557 F/B JDAM Kits for GBU–31 2000-lbs.

One thousand five hundred (1,500) KMU–572 F/B JDAM Kits for GBU–38 500-lbs.

One thousand (1,000) Munitions Adapter Unit (MAU)–210 F/B Enhanced Computer Control Groups (ECCGs) for GBU–48 1,000-lb EPII.

Three hundred (300) MAU–210 F/B ECCGs for GBU–49 500-lbs EPII.

Three hundred (300) MXU–650 K/JB AFGs for GBU–49 500-lbs EPII.

One thousand and twenty-five (1,025) MAU–209 C/B or MAU–169 L/B CCGs for GBU-12 500 lbs Paveway II.

One thousand and twenty-five (1,025) MXU–650 K/B AFGs for GBU–12 500 lbs Paveway II.

Four thousand three hundred sixty-five (4,365) Joint Programmable Fuze, FMU–152 A/B for all GBU types.

Non-MDE: Also includes Detector Sensing Unit (DSU)–38A/B Laser kits, DSU–33D/B proximity sensors, Wireless Paveway Avionics Kit (WIPAK) interfaces for Enhanced Paveway II bombs, repair and return services, transportation, engineering services, and other support services.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N4–D–YAA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2018.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

NATO Support and Procurement Agency—Precision Guided Munitions

NATO Support and Procurement Agency as Lead Nation has requested a possible sale of precision guided munitions kits. The components that comprise the kits are: five hundred (500) KMU–556 F/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Kits for GBU–31 2000-lbs; forty (40) KMU–557 F/B JDAM Kits for GBU–31 2000-lbs; one thousand five hundred (1,500) KMU–572 F/B JDAM Kits for GBU–38 500-lbs; one thousand (1,000) Munitions Adapter Unit (MAU)–210 F/B Enhanced Computer Control Groups (ECCGs) for GBU–48 1,000-lbs EPII; three hundred (300) MAU–210 F/B ECCGs for GBU–49 500-lbs EPII; three hundred (300) MXU–650K/B AFGs for GBU–49 500-lbs EPII; one thousand twenty-five (1,025) MAU–209 C/B or MAU–169 L/B CCGs for GBU–12 500 lbs Paveway II; one thousand twenty-five (1,025) MXU–650 K/B AFGs for GBU–12 500 lbs Paveway II; four thousand three hundred sixty-five (4,365) Joint Programmable Fuze, FMU–152 A/B for all GBU types. Also includes Detector Sensing Unit (DSU)–38A/B Laser kits, DSU–33D/B proximity sensors, Wireless Paveway Avionics Kit (WIPAK) interfaces for Enhanced Paveway II bombs, repair and return services, transportation, engineering services, and other support services. The estimated value is $320.5 million.

This proposed sale supports the foreign policy and national security of the United States by increasing the flexibility of Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom—twelve NATO nations and one Partnership for Peace nation—to contribute to overseas contingency operations. This sale increases the quantity of precision-guided munitions within NATO and allows for their pre-coordinated transfer in support of national and NATO requirements.

The proposed sale improves NATO's capability to meet current and future ground threats with precision. NATO will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats, and to increase interoperability within contingency operations. Many of the purchasing nations already have precision-guided munitions in their inventories; and they will all have no difficulty absorbing these kits.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors for production are the Boeing Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri, and Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Arizona. The principle contractor for integration is unknown and will be determined during contract negotiations. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to NATO.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18–39

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) *Sensitivity of Technology:*

1. Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) is a Joint Service weapon that uses an onboard GPS-aided Inertial Navigation System (INS) Guidance Set with a MK 82, MK 83, MK 84, BLU–109, BLU–110, BLU–111, BLU–117, BLU–126 (Navy) or BLU–129 warhead. The Guidance Set, when combined with a warhead and appropriate fuze, forms a JDAM Guided Bomb Unit (GBU). The JDAM Guidance Set gives these bombs adverse weather capability with improved accuracy. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. After release, JDAM autonomously guides to a target, using the resident GPS-aided INS guidance system. JDAM is capable of receiving target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by onboard aircraft sensors (i.e. FLIR, Radar, etc) during captive carry, or from a third party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry. The KMU–556 F/B, KMU–557 F/B are the tail kits for the GBU–31, the KMU–572 is the tail kit for the GBU–38. The JDAM as an All Up Round is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data for JDAM is classified up to SECRET.

2. Detector Sensor Unit (DSU)–38A/B is a laser-illuminated target detector that adds a Precision Laser Guidance Set (PLGS) to inventory JDAMs, giving the weapon system optional semi-active laser guidance in addition to its other GPS/INS guidance modes. The DSU–38A/B is a DSU–33 (proximity fuze) form-factored passive laser seeker that can be easily installed in the field to the front of existing JDAM weapons and is connected to the Guidance Set via an externally mounted strap-on harness kit. The DSU–38 provides an additional capability to engage mobile targets moving up to 70 mph. The addition of the DSU–38 Laser sensor combined with additional cabling and mounting hardware turns a standard GBU–38 JDAM into a GBU–54 Laser JDAM. The DSU–38 hardware is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

3. Enhanced Paveway II (EPII), a Laser Guided Bomb (LGB), is a maneuverable, free-fall weapon that guides to a spot of laser energy reflected off of the target. The ''enhanced'' component is the addition of GPS guidance to the laser seeker. This dual-mode allows the weapon to operate in all-weather conditions. The LGB is delivered like a normal general purpose (GP) warhead and the semi-active guidance corrects for many of the normal errors inherent in any delivery system. Laser designation for the LGB can