

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—1

Hyde-Smith

The nomination was confirmed.

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

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 bill 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 Karen Dunn Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

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 Karen Dunn Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Alexander	Cruz	Hoeven
Barrasso	Daines	Inhofe
Blunt	Donnelly	Isakson
Boozman	Enzi	Johnson
Burr	Ernst	Jones
Capito	Fischer	Kennedy
Casey	Flake	King
Cassidy	Gardner	Kyl
Collins	Graham	Lankford
Corker	Grassley	Lee
Cornyn	Hatch	Manchin
Cotton	Heitkamp	McCaskill
Crapo	Heller	McConnell

Moran	Roberts	Sullivan
Murkowski	Rounds	Tester
Murphy	Rubio	Thune
Nelson	Sasse	Tillis
Paul	Schatz	Toomey
Perdue	Scott	Wicker
Portman	Shaheen	Young
Risch	Shelby	

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Kaine	Udall
Cardin	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Carper	Leahy	Warner
Coons	Markey	Warren
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Merkley	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	
Feinstein	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Hyde-Smith

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Karen Dunn Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:15 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO ORRIN HATCH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here to give thanks. Just a few days ago our country celebrated a national day of Thanksgiving. We celebrated food, fellowship, and freedom with family and friends. By any measure we are a people endowed with an abundance of blessings. As Americans, we have every reason to be grateful to share the prosperity of economic freedom, religious liberty, and self-government.

Today, I come to the floor to extend my gratitude for one of the most distinguished public servants ever to serve in the U.S. Senate. It is my distinct privilege to stand here today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague from Utah, ORRIN HATCH.

He is a man widely known for his integrity, character, and temperament. He is devoted to his family, his constituents, and his country. With overwhelming support from the good people of Utah, he has served his State and all of America in the U.S. Senate for 42 years.

In those four decades of service, he has brought honor, humility, humor,

and heart to this institution of the U.S. Senate. He has honed his legislative experience on a broad range of public policies. In fact, none of his peers have led more laws to final passage than my friend Senator HATCH. He has built successful bipartisan coalitions to enact laws that make a difference in the lives of everyday Americans.

As former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and currently the senior member there, he is a champion of religious liberty and the rule of law. He is an advocate for entrepreneurship and free enterprise, as well as a champion of intellectual property rights, which includes being the lead Senate sponsor of the Music Modernization Act. He is just old enough to know when laws aren't keeping up with technology. Thanks to his tenacity, the new law will help ensure songwriters, artists, and creators that they will be fairly compensated for their works.

Like so many Americans, Senator HATCH is a man of humble beginnings. He embraces the promise of prosperity and opportunity that makes America the beacon of the free world, and that brings me to the basis of my remarks today. From his decades of service and the chairmanship at the helm of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator HATCH has shouldered some pretty heavy lifting in the legislative trenches to advance free and fair trade laws to foster economic growth and opportunity.

As we all know, America is home to at least 320 million people. That is a fraction of the world's population, and yet America leads the world in economic output. Thanks to an amazing bounty of natural resources and an economic foundation that rewards ingenuity, productivity and creativity, our country, the United States, produces goods and services that consumers around the world want to buy.

Senator HATCH and I share a core philosophy: lowering taxes and trade barriers as a winning formula for prosperity. To paraphrase a philosophy that often is attributed to our 35th President, "a rising tide lifts all boats." Today, I want to give credit where credit is due. Thanks to Senator HATCH's unflinching leadership and unwavering commitment to advance the principles of free and fair trade, America's formula for prosperity and opportunity stands strong for generations to come.

It is virtually impossible to recall any trade policy in recent history that does not have the fingerprints of my esteemed friend Senator HATCH all over those documents. In fact, he led the renewal of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015. It paved the way for a robust, transparent review of trade negotiations.

Like Senator HATCH, I understand that America needs to speak with one voice on the world stage for effective, lasting trade agreements. We also agree on the constitutional authority

of the legislative branch to maintain oversight of these trade agreements. Consultation with Congress is a focal ingredient to ensure that America's workers, job creators, and consumers benefit from the global economy.

Senator HATCH also steered through bipartisan, bicameral trade legislation that updated our customs laws. It authorized the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to strengthen travel and trade enforcement at our borders. Passage of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 holds our trading partners accountable. It preserves the twin pillars of America's most important economic assets: innovation and intellectual property. Putting in place effective tools to protect intellectual property and thwart counterfeit and illicit products from infiltrating the supply chain protects all of our consumers, all of our workers, and our job creators.

Senator HATCH understands that trade agreements can do more harm than good without proper enforcement. Unfair trade can lead to bad trade. That is bad for America. Tax and trade cheats undermine our economy. Senator HATCH has worked tirelessly throughout his years at the helm of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee to weed out wrongdoers and, at the same time, to sow the seeds of accountability and transparency in our international trade regime. Protecting U.S. patents, copyrights, and trademarks are essential to U.S. innovation, investment, and prosperity in the 21st century.

Senator HATCH has also worked to eliminate barriers to trade that helped developing nations create more open economies. His long-term commitment to renew the Generalized System of Preferences helped to lower input costs for U.S. job creators and manufacturers.

On Senator HATCH's watch, investment and opportunity have grown around the world. That rising tide includes the African Growth and Opportunity Act and other trade agreements that facilitate economic development and democracy in developing nations.

Expanding market access is good for America. As manufacturers and farmers in Iowa tell me time and again, that is the case. They want the opportunity to compete in every market for every sale. Americans want to do business on the world stage and compete on a level playing field. Thanks to Senator HATCH's leadership with the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, we expanded market opportunities in developing countries. Once again, quoting President Kennedy, "a rising tide lifts all boats."

When things haven't gone according to plan, Senator HATCH has worked effectively to strengthen U.S. trade remedy laws, including updates such as electronic reporting requirements to hold bad actors to account and to protect the health and safety of consumers for imported goods and services.

Building on the passage of the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016, Chairman HATCH also led the way to further reduce trade barriers, boost economic benefits, and foster competition for U.S. businesses, our services providers, and our manufacturers. The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017 untangles the burdensome redtape of interagency petitions and enforcement that can make or break a business due to unfair trade shenanigans. It strengthens transparency and fairness to help American manufacturers and their workers compete for business. In a nutshell, this law helps U.S. businesses simply to stay in business.

At the end of the day, all of what I said are things, among others, that fuel the U.S. economy—the opportunity to compete for every sale in every market.

Senator HATCH will leave behind a remarkable legacy and a very big gavel. From one public servant to another, Senator HATCH, I am grateful for your service. You have an impeccable record and a long list of achievements that lift the tide for generations to come. Thank you for all you have done for your State, for your country, and for this institution of the Senate.

To my dear friend, from the bottom of our hearts, Barbara, my wife, and I are grateful for your friendship and wish you well for the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore, the Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to thank my dear colleague from Iowa. He is one of the greatest Senators I have served with. He is just a wonderful friend and a wonderful Senator. He has worked his tail off the whole time he has been here. I am grateful for his kind words. It means a great deal to me.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Thank you.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you so much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I have the great pleasure today to talk about a friend. It is a bittersweet moment because that friend is choosing not to stay with us here in the Senate. He didn't run for reelection. He is going back home to Utah, but I want to take a minute to talk about his incredible accomplishments here as a public servant over a 42-year career—over 4 decades here in the Senate.

Some people come here because they want to be somebody. ORRIN HATCH came here because he wanted to do something for people, and boy, he has done that. Time after time, he has stepped up to serve the American people.

When Senator HATCH retires, the Senate will be losing not only our President pro tempore—that means that he is fourth in line to be President, and he is the President pro tempore here of the Senate, the most senior Member—but we are also going to

lose somebody who, over the years, has been a mentor for a lot of us because he is a person who is committed to legislating, to making a difference in the lives of the people of Utah and the people of our great country. He has been a Statesman. At a time of bare-knuckle politics, isn't it nice to have that model? That is ORRIN HATCH.

Back in 1976, a blue-collar kid from Pennsylvania, who had been a card-carrying union member, of which he is proud, and later went to law school and in Salt Lake City became a successful litigation attorney, decided to run for the Senate. He was running against a 3-term incumbent. Normally, that is not a recipe for success, but he had a rare and impressive victory for a first-time candidate, and he hasn't looked back since.

When he got elected, I think he probably was a little surprised, but he also realized that he owed something to the people of Utah. That was to put his nose to the grindstone and make a difference for them, and that is what he has done.

They say he has sponsored more bills that have become law than any other living Member of Congress. He might even have that record for any Member of Congress but, certainly, for those of us who are still around.

He is the former chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, also called the HELP Committee, and the former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Currently, he is the chairman of the all-powerful Senate Finance Committee. I say that somewhat jokingly, but, truly, that committee has jurisdiction over such a broad range of issues, all of which Senator HATCH has touched. I have gotten to work with him on a lot of those issues over the years, when I was on the Ways and Means Committee in the House and now on the Senate Finance Committee. We have worked together on tax reform, on anti-drug legislation, on pension legislation, on healthcare legislation, on intellectual property legislation, and on so much more.

I also had the honor of working very closely with him when I was U.S. Trade Representative because the Senate Finance Committee handles trade matters. He was always extremely involved and engaged in expanding the opportunities for U.S. workers and farmers to sell their products abroad. With a slew of achievements to highlight, it is his most recent accomplishment that I want to talk about very briefly, and that is the devotion he gave to tax reform.

Remember, it had been 31 years since we had had any significant tax reform in this body. Then, a couple of years ago, ORRIN HATCH said: Do you know what? We are going to do this. He set up a bunch of working groups, and they were bipartisan. I cochaired one of them with Senator SCHUMER, who is now the Democratic leader. He said: Let's go to work on this thing.

Frankly, a lot of people didn't give him much of a chance. Why? It had been tried previously in those 31 years, and it had been unsuccessful. Then, here we were in this partisan atmosphere. How could it possibly succeed?

He kept at it, and he shepherded through the process what, I think, is historic tax reform and what I know is helping the people I represent. It is helping small businesses, and it is helping American workers. It is helping to give people opportunities that they would not otherwise have had.

It had been 31 years. Think about that. Back then, Senator HATCH was a second-term Senator. Pete Rose still played for the Cincinnati Reds. Ronald Reagan was President of the United States.

After 31 years, it was probably a good idea to update the Tax Code, and he did that. It is pro-growth. It is resulting in more investment in people and equipment and jobs. As a result, I believe you see this expansion of our economy out there. I think it is the biggest single reason for it.

Wages are finally going up for the first time, really, in a decade and a half, and families have just a little more cash to spend for their Christmas shopping, for their retirements, for their healthcare, for their kids and grandkids. That is exactly what Senator HATCH intended when we crafted that new law, and that is a heck of a capstone for an amazing career.

I am also, though, very grateful for his work in other areas—in protecting religious freedom, in encouraging technological innovation, in focusing a lot on the tech community and how we can help here in Congress to either provide legislation that helps them to be successful, which has encouraged this economic growth we have seen in this country over the last several decades, or to get out of the way, when necessary, to ensure that technology can continue to be at the cutting edge here in the United States.

He has even helped songwriters. Now, some might think that is selfish of him because he is a songwriter himself, but he did it because he realized that songwriters deserved to get a responsible return and to be able to protect their intellectual property that they had embedded in their music and in their videos. So he has been a hero to the folks in the music industry as a result.

By the way, he is not done. This week, next week, and the week after, Senator HATCH is and will be leading a bipartisan effort with Senator BROWN to save the multiemployer pension system. Folks, this is not a task that people take on because it is fun. It is difficult. It is difficult on substance, and it is difficult on politics. Who is back in the lead? ORRIN HATCH, as cochair of this select committee, which this Congress formed to finally come up with a way to keep these pensions from going under, to keep the government entity that ensures the pensions, which is called the Pension Benefit Guaranty

Corporation, or PBGC, from going under, and, ultimately, to ensure that our economy and thousands of businesses will not be impacted so negatively, because we are going to lose a lot of businesses, and we are going to lose the ability to provide people with their hard-earned retirement money unless we fix this system.

Once again, he is in the lead and is trying not to do something that is good for him or good for him politically but something that is good for our country that he knows has to be done. In my view, ORRIN HATCH epitomizes what it means to be a public servant and to be a servant leader because he does it through leadership. He doesn't have to give speeches on civility; he practices it.

Over the years, for me, he has been a model of a serious legislator—one focused on delivering results. Perhaps, most importantly, he is a gentleman. He is a gentleman who treats everybody with respect—everybody. Regardless of your political focus, regardless of who you are in this place or what your station in life is, ORRIN HATCH treats you with respect and dignity.

Despite all of these legislative accomplishments during his more than four decades in the Senate, what is he the most proud of? His family. I know that. I got to know his son early on when we worked together as lawyers in the first Bush White House. This was about 30 years ago. He and Elaine, his wife, have been together now for more than 60 years. They have 6 children, 23 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren. Now, that 24 might have increased since I started talking—I don't know—but he has a lot of them.

Even as he retires as the President pro tempore of this body, I know he is going to stay busy with the Hatch Foundation, and, folks, he is going to stay busy with that growing family. Shepherding tax reform will be nothing compared to shepherding 47 grandchildren and great-grandchildren this holiday season.

ORRIN HATCH, we thank you for what you have done for your State and your country. I know I speak on behalf of this body as a whole when I say that the impact you have had during your time here in the Senate has been one that has made all of us better by being around you and has made this country better. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with you as a colleague, and I look forward to the pleasure of our continuing friendship. Enjoy your retirement, ORRIN. It is well-deserved. Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my dear colleague for his kind remarks. I didn't expect them. I didn't realize this was going on until a few minutes ago. So I am grateful to him. Thanks for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say a few words about

a colleague, a friend, a mentor, and a man whom I admire very, very much and for whom I have so much respect, my colleague Senator HATCH.

In Pennsylvania, as in many States, along the sides of the roads in various towns, you often see these commemorating plaques of historically significant places. In Pennsylvania, there are these that are of beautiful cast aluminum. They are painted blue, and there is gold lettering. They tell you something unique about little boroughs, towns, villages, or sometimes sights in big cities all across the Commonwealth.

There is such a commemoration at the house at which Betsy Ross made the first American flag. There is a marker that signifies the spot at which President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. There is the site of the first World Series in Pittsburgh, PA.

Now, I am not a member of the commission that makes the decision about these things, but if I were, I think you could make a great case for a current and unique Pennsylvania success story. Many of my colleagues already know that Chairman HATCH is actually a son of Pennsylvania. He began with very humble roots in the great city of Pittsburgh, PA, where he attended McGibney Elementary School and grew up in a hardscrabble neighborhood.

He developed an amazing tenacity, which we have all seen and come to know, that has stayed with him to this day. As a matter of fact, my understanding is that the tenacity started at an early age. I understand there was a season during which a young ORRIN HATCH, on the Baldwin High basketball team, managed to foul out 15 times in 1 season. A pretty tough and tenacious guy on the basketball court he was. Yet he was not just a good athlete.

The city of Pittsburgh helped to nurture in ORRIN HATCH his love for music. He was a regular attendee at, among other things, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at the old Syria Mosque in Oakland, which I like to think contributed a little bit to his lifelong love of music.

He was a hard-working guy from the beginning. In high school, ORRIN HATCH worked his summers as a wood lather, and he was a card-carrying member of the AFL-CIO. The modest income he earned from that job helped to put him through school.

Yet, if you had to pick one place to put the marker that would be calling attention to this wonderful son of Pennsylvania, it might actually be a chicken coop in the Pittsburgh area because, while he was struggling to make ends meet right after college, ORRIN HATCH renovated the chicken coop in his parents' backyard, and he turned it into a little two-room cottage. That is where he lived with his young family. That is where they scraped by while he was attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on a scholarship.

The future Chairman HATCH graduated from that law school. He practiced law in Pittsburgh for 7 years and

was recognized as a formidable attorney in Pittsburgh, in Western Pennsylvania, before leaving for Utah, where he would ultimately launch what then looked to be improbable but would turn into being this enormously successful career in government.

Of course, the challenge, if you were going to put one of these markers up is this: What would you say? There is just so much to say about Chairman HATCH. It is hard to encapsulate his success in this body, certainly on a marker or even in a speech, but let me try to touch on a few of the high points.

It is amazing how long he has been so accomplished in this great body. Before I had even graduated from college, Senator HATCH had already worked to successfully pass one of the initiatives for which he has become well-known.

In medicine, as the Presiding Officer knows, we have a term called orphan conditions. This really refers to very rare diseases, diseases that afflict fewer than 200,000 Americans. While they are narrow in the scope of any particular disease, cumulatively, they do affect quite a significant number of Americans. They are conditions like cystic fibrosis, multiple myeloma, and ALS. Because any one of these orphan conditions affects relatively few people, the economics of developing a treatment for one really didn't work. From 1973 to 1983, the FDA actually only approved 10 orphan therapies over 10 years for all of the hundreds and hundreds of orphan diseases that had afflicted millions of people cumulatively.

Senator HATCH recognized this problem. As chairman of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, which was the predecessor to the HELP Committee, Senator HATCH worked across the Chambers and across the aisle with Representative Henry Waxman. In 1983, they passed the Orphan Drug Act, which increased the incentives for developing drugs for these rare but, really, problematic conditions.

Since that time, there have literally been hundreds and hundreds of orphan products that have been approved and have come on the market. While that law has been updated over the years to reflect the changing technology and changing dynamics in medicine, the fact is the Orphan Drug Act that Senator HATCH authored as a relatively new Senator has undoubtedly made a profound difference in saving lives and in improving the quality of life for millions of Americans who previously had little or no hope. It was a very, very big deal.

The very next year, Chairman HATCH achieved the passage of another really monumental law in the healthcare space. It is officially called the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act, but everybody around here simply refers to it as Hatch-Waxman. This is the legislation that really laid the foundation for the generic drug industry that we see today.

Really, when you think about it, this has been an astonishing—really, revo-

lutionary—innovation that has been enormously helpful for American consumers. If you go back to 1984, only about 19 percent of all of the drugs that were dispensed in America were generic, and over 80 percent were branded drugs. That is important because branded drugs are vastly more expensive than generic drugs. By 2017, largely as a result of the legislation that Senator HATCH authored, that dynamic had completely flipped. In fact, it had more than flipped. By 2017, branded drugs are less than 15 percent of all of the drugs dispensed, and generic drugs, the low-cost alternative, are over 85 percent of all the drugs dispensed in America. This one change alone results in saving American families billions of dollars a year on their healthcare costs.

The list of Senator HATCH's accomplishments is a very, very long one, and I couldn't go through all of it. I couldn't begin to. Again, just to touch on some of the other big ones, there is the creation of the Children's Health Insurance Program and the passage of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act. All of this happened before I got to the Senate, some many years ago.

Then, in 2010, I was elected to the Senate, and I had this wonderful privilege shortly thereafter of working on the Senate Finance Committee with Senator HATCH as our chairman and our leader. It was a privilege for me, for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is, I had a chance to see up close, in person, and firsthand his leadership style and how effective he is. He is a role model for anyone who wants to have a successful career as a U.S. Senator.

He was tremendously productive on his work to repeal Medicare's flawed sustainable growth rate, which, year after year, plagued healthcare. There seemed to be no solution, but Senator HATCH figured that out. He was principally responsible for crafting and passing the CHRONIC Care Act. Anybody in the Senate could learn a lot from his focus on oversight of our Nation's foster care system, as well as his role in shaping the Finance Committee's response to the prescription drug abuse and the opioid crisis. It is a very, very long list of really, really important reforms and innovations in healthcare, but it is not just healthcare.

What I think will probably be one of Senator HATCH's most lasting legacies is the leadership he provided to make it possible for all of us to pass the most comprehensive tax reform in over 30 years.

Our Tax Code was broken for a long time. Without Senator HATCH's leadership of the Finance Committee, it would still be broken today. Instead, he helped us to take an outdated, uncompetitive Tax Code and transform it into a competitive, progrowth Tax Code, bringing down our corporate rate to 21 percent, reversing the trend of compa-

nies moving headquarters abroad, reforming our international tax rules to encourage investment domestically, and allowing businesses to immediately write off capital investment. That already has and will continue to lead to a surge of investment, which enhances worker productivity, which is a necessary precondition for wage growth, which we are now seeing. These are the fruits of Senator HATCH's labors.

He insisted that we lower taxes at every income level so virtually all Americans save on their Federal tax bill, and the result has led to the strongest economy in over a decade and, by many measures, much longer than that.

Consumer confidence is at an 18-year high. For the first time that I know of in American history, we have more job openings in America than there are people looking for jobs. Unemployment benefit claims are hitting a 45-year low. In fact, unemployment is the lowest it has been since 1969. These are unbelievable numbers. African-American unemployment is at an alltime record low. Hispanic unemployment is at a record low. Youth unemployment is at a 50-year low. As a result of all of this demand for workers, average hourly earnings are rising at the highest year-over-year increase in a decade. That story is true and was made possible by Senator HATCH.

It was roughly 50 years ago when the Hatch family left Pennsylvania for Utah. That was our loss. It is a big gain for Utah. They gained a great man, a good man, and a future statesman. I will insist that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserves to take a lot of pride in having contributed, at least in helping to shape this good, kind, decent, honorable, and extremely influential man and his life.

I want to give my personal thanks to Senator HATCH for his leadership and for the fact that he has been such a good and honorable man. He enhances the reputation of this body, and he has set a great example for all of us to follow.

I wish my friend and mentor a very long and happy retirement.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MR. HATCH. Mr. President, I just can't express my gratitude for the kindness of my dear friend from Pennsylvania. This means so much to me. I didn't even realize it was going to happen. I hustled over here, and there it was.

I say to the Senator, I am grateful to you, and I am grateful for the kind remarks you have made. I couldn't have asked for more. It was so decent of you, as you always exhibit. You are a great Senator, and I really appreciate your support here today. Thank you so much.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MR. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I would like to thank the senior Senator from

Utah who is retiring at the end of this session of Congress.

Senator HATCH has faithfully served the public for 40 years in the U.S. Senate, constantly using the interface of public policy and the free market to find the best outcome for the American citizen.

If the responsibility of Congress is to pass legislation that improves the lives of Americans, Senator HATCH has met this responsibility. As two examples, when I was a doctor—before entering politics—treating patients, Senator HATCH helped me take better care of my patients. Let me give these examples: The Hatch-Waxman Act leveraged the free market to increase the availability of generic drugs, which means more affordable medicines. The second example I will give is the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, creating the Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP, which gave greater access to healthcare for Americans in need. That benefited me as a doctor taking care of my patients. As a Senator, it was an honor to work with him this past year to reauthorize the CHIP program and to continue efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable.

On a personal note, shortly after joining the Finance Committee, Chairman HATCH sent me a letter welcoming me to the committee and making his office available to help in any way his office could.

If there is a defining characteristic of Senator HATCH, it is that he listens. Whether it is to fellow Senators, the people of Utah, or the people of the United States, Senator HATCH listens and works to find a mutually beneficial outcome.

This happened when the Federal Government came after the Volks construction company in Prairieville, LA, for a record violation occurring well beyond the government's legal authority. The District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals stepped in and unanimously ruled to stop the government overreach, but the Obama administration issued a rule to permit the practice, despite the DC Circuit Court ruling. Knowing this was an important issue for companies in my State, as well as in the rest of the country, Chairman HATCH worked with me to lead legislation to permanently protect businesses from this kind of government abuse of power—again, using the free market or protecting the free market from government abuse.

Another example I will give is during tax reform, when Senator HATCH listened to colleagues' concerns and ideas about how to improve the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to give our companies the tools to succeed. The final product was better for it. He worked with me to strengthen and preserve the historic tax credit, which is instrumental in over 780 restoration projects in Louisiana. When you go to New Orleans and see all of these old buildings now shining once again in glory, they were probably helped by the historic tax

credit, leveraging \$2.5 billion in private investment, creating over 38,000 jobs in Louisiana alone. This is again marrying, if you will, the free market with public policy.

The last issue I will mention, of the many I could, is the following: Since first elected, Senator HATCH has worked to help Americans in their retirement years by increasing access to various types of retirement savings plans to ensure that the widest range of people save for their future. His legislation gave businesses, particularly smaller businesses, the tools needed to offer retirement plans to workers at the lowest possible cost, leveraging the interface of government policy with the market to improve the lives of many in their retirement.

In his tenure, he pushed for sound solutions to the pension issues facing State and local governments. Again, using the interface between government policy and the market to lower the cost of medications. To increase access to healthcare, he promoted the use of sound policy to allow the American economy to thrive. It is this work that those of us who remain in Congress must now pick up and continue.

Scripture says that "the greatest among you shall be your servant." We have been blessed to have had Senator HATCH's wisdom and leadership in the Senate. We have been blessed to have had his wisdom and leadership for our country, and we thank him for his great service to the people of Utah, to the people of Louisiana, and to all Americans.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful to my colleagues and especially my colleague from Louisiana for his kind remarks on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It means so much to me. I want him to know that.

I want the others to realize how much I appreciated their taking time to come to the floor and expressing their opinions about my service in the Senate.

This is a difficult thing for me because I love the Senate. I love both sides. I love my Democratic colleagues. It is no secret that I have worked with both of them to bring great legislation to the floor of the Senate and to pass it.

I have to say to the colleagues on my side, there isn't one of them I don't respect. Every one of them I have great fondness and affection for. I sure appreciate the Senator from Louisiana and the others who have spoken here today.

I am genuinely touched by the kind words and thoughts from my respected colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, PORTMAN, TOOMEY, and of course CASSIDY. I say to them, you are all dear friends, excellent Senators, and I am very grateful for your comments. More than that, I am deeply grateful for your friendship and the impact your

dedication and patriotism have had on me. Of course, that also holds true for all members of the Finance Committee with whom I have had the honor and privilege of serving.

Recently, in the Finance Committee, we passed comprehensive tax reform, a 10-year CHIP extension, saw a health insurance protection extension, a critical 5-year extension of the highway trust fund, and TPA, along with several other trade bills. I can say with great confidence that most of these accomplishments would not have borne fruit without help from each of the Senators and many of our friends on the committee.

Today marks one of the last times I will have the opportunity of standing before the Senate to speak on my work within the Finance Committee's vast jurisdiction and, of course, the fights and victories I have been a part of.

While we may not have been able to close on many of these achievements until recently, they have all been built on hard work that I, other members of the committee, and the wider Senate have engaged in over the past few decades.

For example, earlier this year, I was very happy to see a 10-year reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. Ten years, that is the longest CHIP extension in the history of the program, and I am grateful to my colleagues for it. It is a program that provides insurance to over 9 million children in distress a year.

Creating CHIP was a bipartisan model of success. Senator Ted Kennedy and I were only able to pass CHIP the first time because we both were willing to cross the aisle to see this program succeed. This bipartisan work ethic extended to many pieces of legislation I worked on while on the Finance Committee.

In 2015, we were able to renew Trade Promotion Authority, which is one of the most important tools Congress has that allows us to work hand in hand with the executive branch to advance our Nation's trade agenda. TPA helps to ensure our trade agreements are held to the highest standard.

Not every piece of legislation I am proud of has gone through without a fight, though. We can't forget last winter, when I was so proud to be a part of shaping the historic tax reform legislation that is boosting economic growth today, lowering unemployment today, and spurring job creation today. We worked hard in the Finance Committee to fix the broken Tax Code and, by all accounts, it appears we did a pretty good job.

This legislation was built on years and years of work in the Finance Committee, and I am very appreciative of my colleagues. I led the creation of working groups, released opinion papers and recommendations, and held 70 hearings on how to improve the Tax Code since I became the top Republican on the Finance Committee.

As part of tax reform, we were also able to repeal the individual mandate tax, which forced Americans to buy health insurance they did not want or could not afford.

These are just a few of the accomplishments I have been privileged enough to shepherd through during my service, and they are darn few compared to what we have been able to do. While I am proud of these accomplishments, there is always more to be done, which is why, in addition to thanking all my friends, colleagues and mentors throughout the years, I would like to share some parting words of advice that I have picked up through my work on the Finance Committee, and other committees, for those who will remain in this Chamber.

I see these next few years as critical to the future of our country, to the future of our ideals, and to the future of freedom not only here but throughout the world. As such, I have a few suggestions I would like to make to my colleagues.

First, be earnest, be honest, and guard at all times your integrity. If we cannot take the time to think deeply about an issue, to reason it out, and speak honestly among ourselves and our constituents, it will be impossible to enact lasting and meaningful change.

To quote my good friend Senator KENNEDY, "Integrity is the lifeblood of democracy. Deceit is a poison in its veins."

That means sometimes, often when it is least convenient, we must speak the hard truths. That process will often lead to discord, falling short, or struggling for years to fix vexing problems or disagreements. As Winston Churchill once famously said, "You have enemies? Good. That means you stood up for something, sometime in your life."

So have courage and act.

Second, if you don't care who gets the credit, you will be amazed at what you can achieve. In politics, that can be a hard sentiment to swallow, but focusing on taking the credit more often than not undermines outcomes. Most of the pieces of legislation I am most proud of had dozens of cosponsors, were widely seen as bipartisan, and have remained on the books largely because I did not get everything I wanted.

An article of my faith is, "If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

That article speaks only to the results and not at all about taking the credit. The more I learned to focus on that principle, the better off I have been.

Finally, be grateful, be kind, and be quick to forgive. At the end of the day, my friends, we are all people, and people often disagree. Our differences may be as innumerable as our similarities, but if we start with the premise that every Member's intent is to improve our country and the life of its citizens, then our disagreements are logistical, not personal.

I have always truly believed that just about every Member of this body wants to do the right thing for the American people, but they sometimes want to go about it in different ways. What we must never do is question a fellow Senator's dedication to their country; we must never question their dedication to democracy; and we should never disparage them personally when each of us has given so much.

Our job in Congress is the difficult task of aggregating disparate preferences and molding them into laws to make people's lives better. That leads to what many describe as sausage making. The process generates heated debates and sometimes rancor. Yet I have no doubt about the convictions to do good on the part of all of my esteemed colleagues on the Finance Committee and in Congress in general. I have no doubt about how sincere and convicted my good colleagues really are. I have enjoyed everyone here.

I have to say that if you work hard and you study hard and you open your mind to the other person's ideas and ideals and you are willing to make some changes that accommodate others and you are willing to realize that you don't have all the answers, then you can have a great time here, you can be very successful and, in the end, be able to retire, as I am, feeling like I have done good work here.

I love my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I respect my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I love this country with every fiber of my being. I love the Constitution, which gives us freedoms that we all take so much for granted throughout this country. I am grateful for honest, decent people like all of the Senators whom I have served with in the U.S. Senate, both now and in the past. I am grateful for the Senate rules.

I am grateful a little, scrawny U.S. Senator from Utah could lead a fight against an outrageous labor bill that everybody knew was wrong and actually win it on the floor of the Senate because of just guts and the ability to stand here and take the abuse. Labor law reform dramatically changed this country, nearly ruined our country, without really helping the unions.

I was raised in the union movement. I actually held the union card I earned through apprenticeship, my journeyman's license. I am proud of that. I am proud of my union friends, but when you try to take unfair advantage, somebody has to stop it, and I am grateful I was given that assignment early on with this matter, with 62 Democrats and only 38 Republicans. I can still remember a number of Democratic Senators coming up to me and saying: Hey, kid—because I was still pretty young then—hey, kid, you have to win this. This is bad for the country.

And I asked them: Are you going to help me?

And more often than not they would say: Well, I can't help you, but I am with you.

There was a lot of pressure. There was a lot of effort made to try and stop men and women from doing what was right. If we had not won on labor law reform, we would have gone straight to socialism, and it would have been the end of this great country. We have come close a few other times as well.

This is, without question, the greatest country in the world. Without question, this is the greatest deliberative body in the world. Without question, I acknowledge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as tremendous statesmen and women who really have been here for the right reasons. I am grateful I have had the opportunity of serving in this body, and I am grateful for the 42 years I have put in. I can't say I have enjoyed every one of those years, but looking back on it, I think I have to say that I have really enjoyed being here.

I love my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I respect my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I want this body to continue on and be successful for America, not only for America but for the rest of the world because this is where freedom really exists. This is where freedom can be maintained. This is where freedom can be felt in your guts. I felt it. I know a lot about freedom. I know a lot about the U.S. Senate. I know a lot about my colleagues and the good things about them. I am going to remember the good things; I am not going to remember things that used to irritate me or wrangle me. There weren't many of those compared to the good nature and quality of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I am grateful for this body. I am going to miss it terribly. I think there comes a time when you really ought to hang it up, not because I can't do this work anymore—I sure can—but because I worked hard to get a worthy successor, and Mitt Romney is going to be that. He is an outstanding human being. He is an honest, decent, morally upright human being. I think he will work hard and be a great asset to the U.S. Senate. He will not have the seniority I have as the most senior Republican in the U.S. Senate, but he has a lot of things going for him, and I suspect he will make a great addition to the U.S. Senate. Knowing that he was willing to run, having chatted with him and talking to him about running, I feel really decent about wrapping it up and saying not goodbye, but I will be watching. I will be praying for you. I will be doing everything in my power to support both Houses of Congress in this, the greatest country in the world, with the greatest set of legal principles the world has ever known and I think with the greatest people we have ever known.

So with that, I express my gratitude to the U.S. Senate, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both presently in the Senate and those who have gone on to other worlds. I personally express gratitude to everyone here because virtually everyone has shown me great favor and great kindness.

When I came here, I came here to fight Senator KENNEDY because I thought he was too liberal and that he was not a good Senator. I don't think he had passed really any legislation when I got here. I don't think he did until I became chairman of the committee, but he was a great legislator, and he did have an awful lot to say on his side. I think he would be the first, if he were alive today, to say we finally talked it out together, decided to work together, decided to accomplish things together, decided to stand together. When we were in battles, they were really hard-fought battles, but they were battles on principle, for the most part.

I have to say I am grateful for the experiences I have had in the Senate with virtually every Senator who has been in the Senate. In all of my years of being here, I have to say I have love for every one of the Senators who has served here. There are a couple I have less love for, but by and large I even have love for them.

These folks in this Senate are really good people. They care about the country. They care about trying to do what is right. They are willing to fight for their principles, and they can be worked with. I challenge my colleagues to work together with the best interests of this country. If you will, this country is going to go on and be a very, very happy, prosperous, and successful country.

I will end by saying I am so grateful for the privilege of being in this body for 42 years and knowing all of you, including our clerical workers, our stenographers, and, of course, the Parliamentarians, Secretaries, and all of the people affiliated with the U.S. Senate. No wonder it is the greatest deliberative body in the world.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF THOMAS FARR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today on two matters. I wish to begin by expressing my opposition to the nomination of Thomas Farr to the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

As a Senator from a State with a tradition of high voter turnout—in fact, in the last Presidential election, with the highest voter turnout in the country—in the election a few weeks ago, nearly 64 percent of Minnesota voters cast their ballot. This isn't just registered voters; it is eligible voters. We are talking about an issue that, in my State and in so many places around the country, is fundamental to our democracy—access to the polls. It is the central pillar of our democracy. If people

can't vote, they can't have a say and we don't have a real democracy. It is that simple. That is why I am here to voice my opposition to Thomas Farr—because of his long record of defending discriminatory voting laws and redistricting plans.

In North Carolina, Mr. Farr defended one of the most restrictive voting laws that we have seen, which, in addition to establishing a discriminatory voter ID requirement, eliminated same-day voter registration.

By the way, I have spent a lot of time on this and have a bill to institute this across the country. Same-day voter registration is really the key. When you look at the top 10 States for voter turnout—some are red, some are blue, some are purple—what do they have in common? They have same-day registration. It makes it easier for people to vote. As long as they can prove where they live—with a neighbor, with a gas bill, you name it—they are able to register that day. That is the key when you look at all the numbers.

What did Mr. Farr do? He actually defended one of the most restrictive voting laws, eliminating same-day voter registration. He reduced early voting and did away with voter registration for 16- and 17-year-olds. How did he do it? He did it by defending those laws.

When the law was challenged in court, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals found that it was enacted with the intent to discriminate against minority voters. In its ruling, the court said that the law targeted minority voters. This is a quote from the circuit court, which is actually one of the more conservative circuits. They said that they did it with “almost surgical precision.”

Mr. Farr also defended North Carolina's redistricting plan against claims that it used race as the predominant consideration in drawing two congressional districts. A district court found that the plan constituted an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which agreed with the district court's decision.

So you don't have just one incident of someone maybe getting on a legal brief or writing something or doing a law review article or writing a paper in college or in high school. This is a long, consistent, systematic record of defending discriminatory voting schemes. And I say “schemes” because that is what they are. They are done with the intention to discriminate against people of color.

We should be making it easier to vote in our elections, not harder. That is why I am introducing legislation to automatically register eligible voters when they turn 18. That would be so easy. We wouldn't have to have all these fights all the time. We have modern-day technology that lets my hometown company of Target find a pair of shoes with a SKU number in Hawaii. There is no reason we can't go through

the records and make sure we simply register people who are legal to vote when they turn 18.

It is not just Mr. Farr's work in the courts that is concerning; I am also troubled by his involvement in a political campaign that was accused of engaging in tactics to discourage, once again, African Americans from voting. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division filed a complaint alleging that the campaign Mr. Farr worked on sent tens of thousands of postcards to heavily African-American districts intended to intimidate voters. According to a former Department of Justice official who investigated the campaign's alleged voter-intimidation tactics, Mr. Farr's answers to the Judiciary Committee denying his involvement were “contrary to the facts.”

Finally, I would like to remind my colleagues about the history of this vacancy. The Eastern District of North Carolina is 27 percent African American; yet the district has never had an African-American Federal judge. Before Mr. Farr was nominated, two other nominees were submitted to the Senate during the previous administration. Both of those nominees were African-American women. Neither of those nominees received a vote.

Our courts must be dedicated to upholding the law, including safeguarding citizens' constitutional rights to vote. The future of our democracy depends on it.

I am opposing this nomination.

DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. President, I now turn to another topic. I rise today to call for a forceful response to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and to hold the Saudi Government accountable at the highest levels. Our country is stronger and safer when our core democratic values—values of freedom of the press and the protection of human rights—are at the heart of our foreign policy.

It has been almost 2 months since Jamal Khashoggi's heinous murder. He was a resident of the United States and a respected journalist with the Washington Post. People across our country have been rightfully appalled by his death. All he was doing was going inside the consulate in Turkey to try to get his marriage papers so that he could get married to his fiancée. That was what was happening, but it turns out he was actually lured there—lured to his death.

We were then treated to an incredible coverup by the Saudi Government, with shifting explanations, inadequate cooperation with investigations, and use of authoritarian tactics to silence critics. News reports have made it clear that the CIA believes with high confidence that the attack was called for at the highest level of the Saudi Government.

I look forward to hearing from Secretaries Pompeo and Mattis regarding how the administration plans to respond when we have the briefing that