

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

MR. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the most important words of our Constitution are the first three: “We the People.” Those three words, written in big, bold, beautiful script, convey the mission of our Constitution. We are a nation, as Abraham Lincoln opined, “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” That was the mission.

Our Constitution also lays out how our Founding Fathers intended to be a nation of, by, and for the people to be governed by coequal branches, with the branch carrying the weight of policy development being Congress: the House, and the Senate. The Executive is to have quite a different role in executing the laws. Judiciary has yet another role in weighing whether the laws are in accordance with the parameters of the Constitution—the principles of the Constitution.

So there we are, the branch of government—the Senate and the House—with the power of the purse, with the responsibility for laying out the governing vision and rules for our Nation.

Yet, one-quarter of our government goes unfunded for a fourth week. Why is this Chamber not full of Senators? Why are we not debating funding bills? Why is there not a bill before the Senate right now? It is because the rhythm of the floor in this Chamber is guided by the majority leader. The majority leader refuses to put the bill on the floor so we can go about our work, putting the government back in business and ending this shutdown.

The majority leader has refused to have the Senate fulfill its responsibility and, indeed, has said: “. . . will not take up any proposal that does not have a real chance of . . . getting a Presidential signature.”

In the Constitution, we have the ability to set law without a Presidential signature. It is certainly not a waste of time to be here debating proposals for funding the government. In fact, this is a complete abdication of our responsibility. It is an abdication at a time when 800,000 American families have a mother or father who is not getting paid, when many more thousands of contractors are not getting paid. Millions of Americans are seeking government services and finding there is no one to answer their phone call or their letter or process their online application, whether for an FAA mortgage, whether for an agricultural grant or loan for the next farming season, whether it is any of a host of hundreds of roles the government plays in facilitating the commerce and life of this Nation.

President Trump and the Senate majority are holding seven funding bills hostage. Hostage-taking is not the wisest move. Only one of these hos-

tages has anything to do with the battle over the border. So why not release six of these hostages? Why not end the Trump-McConnell shutdown and release six of the seven hostages and on the seventh do a continuing resolution so we can continue debating the issues at stake while putting people back to work. That is a pretty good idea.

Here is the genius of the idea, which is, these are bills that already have support in the Senate. If we were to look at that support, we would find it was substantial when these bills came through in a bipartisan fashion under a Republican-led Senate. You have the Republican endorsement from here and you have the Democratic endorsement from the House. That is the making of a path forward.

Yet we need to remind the Members how our Constitution is constructed. Article I section 7 says in an abbreviated format: “If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections.” Then it goes back to the House and Senate, whichever body first initiated it. “. . . and if approved by two-thirds . . . it shall become a Law.”

Let’s recognize that the vision of our Constitution was not for us to sit on some chair or bench somewhere waiting for someone far down Pennsylvania Avenue to tell us what to do. That is not fulfilling our job. The President is supposed to implement the laws we pass—the vision we adopt—not for us to sit here doing nothing, waiting for the man in the Oval Office to tell us he has some message from on high on what we are supposed to do. No, that is not the vision of our Constitution.

It is disturbing that a responsibility we all signed on to—we took our oath of office—is being neglected in this Chamber at this moment, when so many Americans are suffering as a result.

Those funding bills that I was speaking of and that partisan support, how strong it was—the Agriculture bill, Interior, Financial Services, General Government, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. Those passed this floor just a few weeks ago on a 92-to-6 vote. How much more bipartisan does it get?

The State and Foreign Operations bill passed out of the Republican-led Appropriations Committee 31 to 0. The Commerce, Justice, and Science spending bill passed 30 to 1 in our spending committee. Homeland Security passed out 26 to 5.

So these have a powerful imprint of overwhelming bipartisan support in this Chamber, and yet we sit here afraid to take action and lay out the vision we have a responsibility to lay out.

I hope every Member will say back home that they invite the feedback of their constituents; that they will hold townhalls because then they will hear what I hear, which is that is an absurdity. It is an irresponsibility. It is a failure of leadership. It is a neglect of

duty, and that is not what this Chamber should be about. It is not a proud moment to have such dysfunction in the heart of the Senate.

I am reminded of the historical reference: “While Nero fiddles, Rome burns.” It is a reference to the year A.D. 64, when Rome burned to the ground. The historian Suetonius records that Nero was responsible for the fire, and he watched it from a tower while playing an instrument and singing about the destruction of a different place—the destruction of Troy.

Here we sit today with our leadership’s fiddling while our Nation suffers, while our leadership watches from afar from the tower, playing some fiddle for its amusement, instead of taking action here on the floor of the Senate.

While the Republican Senate leadership fiddles, our farmers aren’t getting the funds or assistance they need to get through the winter to prepare for the next season because the Department of Agriculture is closed for business.

While the Republican leadership of this Chamber fiddles, firefighters whom we ask to risk their lives in fighting massive infernos in our Nation’s forests are missing out on critical training and preparation time for the next fire season. In addition, the work being done to thin the forests, to make the forests more fire resistant, is suspended. The work getting the fuel off the forest floors to make them more fire resistant is suspended. The prescription burns being done to make the forests more fire resistant are canceled. Yet this is the time they have to happen. While the leadership fiddles, it is setting the stage for more savage forest fires to wreak havoc on the Western States in the United States in the summer to come.

While the Republican leadership of this Chamber fiddles, 100,000 low-income tenants are at risk because there is no staffer in place at Housing and Urban Development to renew the 1,100 affordable housing contracts that expired last month.

While the leadership fiddles, small, rural economies, like that of Lakeview, OR, are stuck in limbo and are unable to move forward on critical projects. According to the South Central Oregon Economic Development District’s director, they are working at trying to give a loan to a small business in Lakeview, but they need EPA staff approval to be able to use the grant funding for an environmental assessment before they can borrow funds to buy a building. So they are up the creek while the Republican leadership fiddles.

The real victims in this misguided standoff are the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who aren’t being paid and the contractors who might never be paid. Let’s listen to them. What do they have to say about this? Are they writing and saying: “Love this dysfunction in the Senate. Love

the failure of leadership. Love the incompetence. Love the fact that nobody is working here to solve the problem?"?

No, that is not what they are saying.

Erin, a furloughed Forest Service employee of Sandy, OR, writes that both she and her husband are Forest Service employees who have been furloughed in the Mt. Hood National Forest, and they are terrified about their personal finances.

Erin writes:

I have two boys that I will still have to continue to pay daycare for so I do not lose their spot. That's \$1,400 a month alone.

She went on to write:

We have to be smart on how we balance our finances because the cost of living is going up, but our salaries have not been increased besides a minor cost-of-living adjustment last year. So I am very worried what a long shutdown means for my family and my coworkers.

Erin and her husband have every right to be worried about what is in the future for her family. They are suffering the effects of this shutdown through no fault of their own.

Steven, of southeast Portland, writes:

I am writing as a constituent, residing in southeast Portland, and as a furloughed Federal employee. I do not in any way support President Trump's efforts to build a wall along our southern border. The proposed wall is unneeded. It would be a wantonly wasteful use of taxpayer money. It would be environmentally destructive, and it would further the inhumane disregard of the rights of those seeking asylum.

Steven is a Federal worker who is not being paid, and he doesn't support this shutdown.

Julie, the wife of a firefighter in Redmond, OR, wrote last week that her husband "isn't able to work because of the government shutdown." In just over a week, they are supposed to hire all of their seasonal firefighters for the summer. If they can't work, the hiring will get delayed or not happen, which will put communities at serious risk this summer from wilderness fires. This risk for this coming summer is very real in our State of Oregon.

Julie writes:

In no way is it OK to let the government shut down. . . . Don't participate in holding our own country hostage.

Dr. Genevieve Grady, of Sheridan, OR, wrote:

I am a licensed clinical psychologist who is working at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Sheridan, OR. I am also a single mom with two children under the age of 5. As an essential Federal employee, I am required to continue to work without being paid. As a licensed psychologist, I could cultivate outside work with Agency permission to supplement my income. However, I am unable to do this due to having to continue working full time. Given that I am a single mother of two small children, I must provide care for my children during all other hours of the day. In order to maintain a roof over my and my children's heads, I have had to contact my Federal student loan company to seek relief. Unfortunately, they cannot alter my student loan status any earlier than February 6. My daycare provider, who watched my children so that I may continue going to work with-

out pay, is an in-home provider with three teenaged children of her own. I cannot ask her to go without pay as she too needs to continue keeping her family financially stable.

She writes:

There are very few expenses in my life that can go without money: food, daycare, gas to get to work, car insurance to drive legally, a phone required for my job to contact me in an emergency, medical expenses. Both of my kids have been sick during this furlough and have had to see the doctor to get medication. After 26 days without pay, these bills continue to require cash to pay, and I continue to wonder how much longer I should keep coming to work or when I should look for another job.

Linnea from Roseburg, OR, writes:

The unrepentant hostage holding of people's wages is cruel and shows just how removed the Trump administration is from the American people. I live in a single-income household in which the only breadwinner is a government employee, my mother. This means that we went through the holidays not knowing when the next paycheck was going to come. We still don't know.

Britt, a furloughed IRS worker who was proud of his government service and called it his small way of participating in our democracy, writes:

My savings is small and will not last through an extended shutdown. I have already applied for unemployment insurance compensation, but that process takes several weeks before I actually receive any money. I have never had to file for unemployment before, and it's quite unsettling that I am forced to resort to government aid.

Like so many other Oregonians in a State that is 20-percent National Forest, Brien, of Pendleton, OR, writes:

As a United States Forest Service employee, I am waiting for relocation reimbursement on a current move. I used most of my savings to move duty stations 2 months ago, and with the current furlough, I cannot afford to miss a pay period even if I will get it in the end. I am currently paying interest on my move that was to be covered by the Forest Service. If the furlough lasts longer than January 13, it will be extremely difficult to avoid late payment charges on utilities, mortgage, and other bills. Don't hold me and my middle-class family hostage to rich men's antics.

That is exactly what is happening with a President who is so far removed from the reality of ordinary people, with a President who worked with the leadership of this body in the Senate to approve a series of spending bills that we passed by a vast bipartisan majority but who then changed his mind and withdrew his support after they were passed. The President switched his position after the bills went through the Senate. The President bragged about owning this shutdown. He didn't have 1 second of worry about the plight of an ordinary American who was struggling to pay his bills.

From his ivory tower, his skyscraper in Florida, and his club—and, oh, he is still happy with his golf courses—he has no idea of the pain this is inflicting on people. If someone explains it to him, he doesn't care. That says a lot about the failure of leadership. As this writer said, "Don't hold me and my

middle-class family hostage to rich men's antics."

Air traffic controllers are essential to the safety of our air traffic across this country. I received a stack of handwritten letters last week—old-fashioned, ink on paper, all kinds of paper, all colors of pens. They were handwritten by Oregon air traffic controllers who have been absolutely incensed with what is going on. Being an air traffic controller is an unbelievably tough job. Air traffic controllers are responsible for thousands of lives at any given moment. They have to be on their game 100 percent of the time. It can't be 99.5 or a plane is going to crash on you that day. These folks are working without pay. It is inflicting stress and anxiety on people who should have their absolute, full attention solely on the job of making sure no plane hits another.

James Ferguson, of Forest Grove, writes:

If the shutdown lasts any longer, I will lose my health insurance and will no longer be able to pay for my 1-year-old son's physical therapy, potentially adding additional months to correct his spine and neck muscle problems.

This is another example of the pain. Here is a parent who feels the medical affliction of his child is going to be accentuated by the actions of the Republican leadership in the Senate and President Trump in the Oval Office. James isn't complaining that he needs to go shopping for new clothes or that he wants to check out a new car. He is worried about getting medical care for his infant child. He is worried about his infant child's recovery and of his improvement being stalled or damaged by this callous, inhumane shutdown.

Trevor Stokes, of Hillsboro, OR, and his wife are veterans of the U.S. Navy. They certainly are no strangers to sacrificing for their country.

In fact, in his letter, Trevor writes:

Over the past few weeks, during the shutdown, I have worked both Christmas and New Year's as well as their eves. I was not able to spend time with my family, which is a necessary sacrifice.

Then he writes:

Now our financial future is uncertain due to a potentially long unpaid period. I've had to withdraw from mutual funds just to cover monthly financial obligations. My family and the families of my air traffic colleagues have suffered from the sudden loss of income. Please end the shutdown.

We ask so much of these people. We ask long hours and missed holidays in the name of protecting us as travelers. Shouldn't we also be looking out for them in their time of need?

Why don't we reopen the Department of Transportation and make sure our air traffic controllers start getting paid? All of these individuals are saying: Do your job. Do your job. Do your job. Senate leadership, do your job.

Put the bills that have passed the Senate already back on the floor so that we can send them to the Oval Office. Let us do our job.

This Trump-McConnell shutdown, this inaction of the Senate, abdicating

its responsibility—isn't that exactly parallel to Nero fiddling while Rome burned? That fire here in America is touching the lives of so many. There are 800,000 workers without pay. Thousands more are contractors. Millions of Americans are caught in limbo in the midst of an important transaction—applying for an agricultural loan, trying to get a mortgage, signing up for help from the Small Business Administration to launch their business, getting their paperwork processed in one of 1,000 different ways, and here, the leadership fiddles while the American public suffers. It is wrong.

It may not be comfortable to have a debate on the spending bills. It may not be comfortable to vote on these bills. It may not be sweet to support or oppose a particular amendment, but do you know what is worse? What is worse is doing nothing.

That is what this Chamber is doing right now. It is doing nothing, despite our responsibility to millions of Americans to act. Let's change that. Let's change it now.

I understand that the majority is going on a retreat. Instead of going on a retreat to play the fiddle, how about you be here on the floor and put these bills on the floor? Let's get all 100 Senators on the floor to actually talk to each other, to actually wrestle with the issues, to actually make our arguments, and to actually take the votes instead of going off somewhere to party. That is just wrong.

I encourage the majority leader to read the letter that was sent to him today from the freshmen from the House of Representatives down the hall. The freshmen haven't been here long enough to become cynical. They haven't become trapped in the partisan boundaries and warfare that seem to ensnare so much of this Chamber and the Chamber across the way. No, they are here, fresh from other occupations and other responsibilities, still full of common sense and the passion to do what is right for the American people. So let's listen to them.

Today they sent a letter to Majority Leader McConnell, which I read on the floor earlier today, and they said: Put the bills on the floor, put the spending bills on the floor—the bills that have already passed here in the Republican-led Senate or that passed overwhelmingly by the Republican-led Appropriations Committee, endorsed by the Democratic House. Put them on the floor and act.

Let's listen to the freshmen down the hall. They are reminding us that we have a responsibility to act, and let's do so immediately.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 4 P.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 4 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MINDY BRASHEARS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY, VICE ELISABETH ANN HAGEN, RESIGNED.

NAOMI C. EARP, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE JOE LEONARD, JR. SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS, VICE CATHERINE E. WOTEKI.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM BOOKLESS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MADELYN R. CREEDON.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

VERONICA DAIGLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE FREDERICK VOLLRATH, RESIGNED.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2022, VICE DANIEL J. SANTOS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THOMAS MCCAFFERY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JONATHAN WOODSON, RESIGNED.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2023. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

LISA VICKERS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021, VICE JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SETH DANIEL APPLETON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE KATHERINE M. O'REGAN.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

SPENCER BACHUS III, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE PATRICIA M. LOUI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THELMA DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR, VICE PETER M. ROGOFF, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DINO FALASCHETTI, OF MONTANA, TO BE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE RICHARD B. BERNER, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

RODNEY HOOD, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 2, 2023, VICE RICHARD T. METZGER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT HUNTER KURTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SANDRA BROOKS HENRIQUEZ, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JEFFREY NADANER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DAVID W. MILLS, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BIMAL PATEL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL, RESIGNED.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2021, VICE LARRY W. WALTHER, TERM EXPIRED.

KIMBERLY A. REED, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2021, VICE FRED P. HOCHBERG, RESIGNED.

CLAUDIA SLACK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE SEAN ROBERT MULVANEY, TERM EXPIRED.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ALAN E. COBB, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023, VICE WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK A. DEARBORN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE JEFFREY R. MORELAND, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

LANE GENATOWSKI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE ELLEN DUDLEY WILLIAMS.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOSEPH RYAN GRUTERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ALBERT DICLEMENTE, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

JANICE MIRIAM HELLREICH, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024, VICE HOWARD ABEL HUSOCK, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HEIDI R. KING, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

ROBERT A. MANDELL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022, VICE BRENT FRANKLIN NELSEN, TERM EXPIRED.

DON MUNCE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024, VICE LORETTA CHERYL SUTLIFF, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BARRY LEE MYERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

BRUCE M. RAMER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2024, VICE NINA MITCHELL WELLS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

RITA BARANWAL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY), VICE PETER BRUCE LYONS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUSAN COMBS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE RHEA S. SUH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM COOPER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE STEVEN CROLEY, RESIGNED.