

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wyoming.

NOMINATION OF KATHRYN HUFF

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support the nomination that we are soon to vote on, and that is the nomination of Dr. Kathryn Huff. She was nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at the Department of Energy.

Now, while I don't agree with her on many issues, she is a strong supporter of nuclear energy. She is well qualified for the position to which she has been nominated. She holds a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering and currently serves as a special adviser to the Energy Secretary.

Before joining the Department, Dr. Huff was an assistant professor in the Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has also worked in our National Laboratories.

At her nomination hearing in early March, Dr. Huff testified:

It would be my honor to help the United States bolster and reclaim its global leadership in nuclear energy.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that the Department work diligently to make America energy-dominant again. Nuclear technology is essential to meeting America's energy, environmental, and national security objectives. We need to be looking for opportunities to expand our use of nuclear energy. Dr. Huff is ready and able to take on that responsibility.

Russia's army is funded by the sale of energy. That includes uranium. Russia accounts for one-third of the world's uranium conversion and half of the world's uranium enrichment capacity. It is our third largest supplier of uranium—for us in the United States.

Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine has opened the world's eyes. We can't be reliant on Russia. Now is the time for the United States to stop buying Russian uranium. Now is the time for the United States to ramp up our domestic uranium production. Dr. Huff recognizes that opportunity, and she is prepared to act.

The Department of Energy needs to take immediate action to establish a strategic uranium reserve. This is to ensure our existing reactors have the fuel that they need.

We also can't allow America's advanced reactor developers to be dependent on Russia. The Department of Energy needs to take immediate action to develop an American supply of high-assay, low-enriched uranium. To meet these challenges, we need experienced leadership in place at the Office of Nuclear Energy. Dr. Huff is up to that task. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF KATHRYN HUFF

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, 2 days ago, it was my unhappy task to notify the Senate that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources had deadlocked on another nomination and on 3 important public land bills, with all 10 Democratic members voting for each bill and all 10 Republican members voting against them.

I strongly believe that the Senate works best when we work together, find common ground, and reach a consensus and that we fail the American people when we don't.

So it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to speak on the nomination of Dr. Kathryn Huff to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy. I am very pleased to say that Dr. Huff's nomination is one thing Democrats and Republicans on the committee agree with completely. We reported her nomination last week without a single dissenting vote. I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to vote to confirm her today.

My friend JOHN BARRASSO is ranking member, and we work very close together, and this is one that we found total unanimity that she is the right person at the right time in the right place for this job.

Dr. Huff is extremely well qualified for this important position. She has the academic training as a physicist and in nuclear engineering. She holds degrees in physics from the University of Chicago and nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has extensive postgraduate experience as a research assistant at Argonne and the Idaho National Laboratories and as a postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley. She has extensive professional experience as a professor at the University of Illinois for 5 years before joining the Department of Energy.

She joined the Department of Energy a year ago as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. She served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for nearly a year prior to her nomination. She has very clearly demonstrated her ability to handle the job through her performance as the Deputy and Acting Assistant Secretary over this past year. She also showed her firm grasp of nuclear issues facing the Department at her confirmation hearing.

In short, Dr. Huff has earned the strong bipartisan endorsement of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. I urge all Senators to vote to

confirm her today. It shows that when we get the right person who is qualified for the job, basically, we will come together.

I would advise any administration to look deeply at the person you are bringing before us to make sure they fit those requirements. This is a carbon copy of what I would continue to find—people such as Dr. Huff to fill these very, very, very important jobs. It takes that type of dedication, but it takes the type of knowledge and experience that Dr. Huff has.

I urge total adoption of this by all Members of our Senate, 100 of us.

VOTE ON HUFF NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Huff nomination?

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Fischer	Ossoff
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Padilla
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Hagerty	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Romney
Braun	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kelly	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Leahy	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cotton	Lummis	Warner
Cramer	Manchin	Warnock
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Daines	Menendez	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Feinstein	Murray	

NAYS—11

Blackburn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Hawley	Paul	Tuberville
Hoeben	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—9

Bennet
Graham
Marshall

Moran
Portman
Rubio

Scott (SC)
Shelby
Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately informed of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

(The remarks of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 620 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 708.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 708, Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gilli-

brand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 773, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie K. Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 5, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALISON KEAR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is my favorite time of the week. And I can see the pages

are getting all excited about another edition of the "Alaskan of the Week." We get to talk about someone who is making a big difference in Alaska, someone whose spirit is helping others.

We always like to end the week on a positive note here in the U.S. Senate, usually with an "Alaskan of the Week" speech. So before I get to talk about our special Alaskan, an incredible woman named Alison Kear, I am going to give a little update about what is going on in Alaska.

So, as I mentioned last week, winter is no longer coming; winter is on the run. The sun is out longer and longer every day. Let me give you a real cool example. In Utqiaġvik, known as Barrow—the northernmost city, community, in North America at Point Barrow—the sun is getting out longer and longer each day.

Now, remember, just 3 months ago, Utqiaġvik had no sun—zero, zilch. Utqiaġvik gained more than 17 minutes of daylight from yesterday. Isn't that cool? It is kind of amazing. The sun rose at 4 a.m. and will set tonight after midnight. Four months ago there was no sun. So a lot going on.

In Anchorage, the home of Alison, our Alaskan of the Week, it is in the 50s, balmy this weekend. So it is a great time to be in Alaska. There isn't a person who doesn't long to visit the great State and join us up there. So please come and join us.

So let me go back to Alison Kear, who is doing a great job in Alaska, our Alaskan of the Week. She runs a very special organization called Covenant House, one of 33 Covenant Houses in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Covenant House's mission is to help with youth homelessness. That means, of course, helping provide short- and long-term housing for young people who are experiencing homelessness. But to really help our young people—all people—get into a stable situation, whether that means to reunite with family or get into a permanent home, what Covenant House does involves so much more.

At Covenant House Alaska, they offer so much more, and that has been Alison's incredible legacy. So let me talk about Alison, who started with Covenant House in 1997. So she is celebrating 25 years with the organization, a silver anniversary. Way to go, Alison. We are so proud of her.

She was born and raised in Florida. She went to college in Texas. She arrived in Alaska in 1994 armed with a graduate degree in healthcare management, a job at a local hospital in Alaska, and big ideas about where her life would lead her. Initially, at least, those plans did not involve Covenant House. In fact, according to Alison, they didn't involve Alaska for too long. She arrived—as she said recently to some of my team as we were putting this together—in the last frontier with big hair, a couple of fancy suits, and a plan: If she spent 3 years in Alaska