

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues, especially Senators SHAHEEN and TILLIS, for leading an incredibly successful congressional delegation to the NATO summit. I want to thank them, as well, for organizing the colloquy today.

I join them in enthusiastically endorsing Finland and Sweden's accession into NATO. Both nations have representative governments accountable to their people. They conduct extensive commerce and trade with our great United States, and, broadly, they share many of our values.

Historically, perhaps these were conditions sufficient to readily welcome two European nations into one of our multinational security frameworks, but today, given the increasingly complex threats our adversaries are imposing on the homeland, protecting American security and prosperity demands partners who are capable of sharing NATO's manpower and resource burdens.

NATO isn't a club of democracies or a playground for exploring climate change or progressive cultural interests. It is a military alliance that is assembled to deter our adversaries from wreaking havoc on our partners and against our own homeland.

Today, the United States is the unquestioned and undisputed leader of not just NATO, but continues to lead the global coalition containing and destroying terrorist operations in the Middle East and in Africa. Beyond Europe and the Middle East, the United States must—and I will repeat that—must lead a coalition to deter China's looming imperial expansion around the world and potential takeover of Taiwan and our other partners in the Indo-Pacific.

The United States has the greatest military on the face of the planet, and the American people's support of our Armed Forces is unwavering.

Still, our Commander in Chief, our diplomatic and military leadership, and Members of the Senate must hold our partners accountable to their own defense and not lean on the reach and lethality of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardians alone.

Going forward, NATO member countries must invest in their own defense. Two percent must be a minimum standard. Longstanding members of the alliance remain far too lax and sometimes neglectful of their obligations to the alliance and to their people. America is not the world's policemen, but we are the leader of the free world and this alliance. And Finland and Sweden are on target regarding their 2-percent commitment.

I am confident that Finland and Sweden are ready to stand up and help shoulder the resource burden on NATO's military obligations in Europe, particularly following Russia's bloody, lawless invasion of Ukraine.

The accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO is a great success, but regarding the war raging in Ukraine today,

on day 140 of this conflict, the U.S. cannot grow weary. Our resolve to support our partner must carry on. China is watching. The Gulf States, South America, and Africa are weighing their commitment to the free world against the economic and security guarantees on the table from our adversaries.

Our national defense capacity diminishes the more our adversaries, from the Taliban to Iran's cluster of violent extremist organizations, to Vladimir Putin, to the Chinese Communist Party, can call our bluff and see if we cannot bear the cost of achieving our goals.

We must remain steady and strong. This administration and our partners in NATO must change their strategy to deliver Ukraine victory over Putin's Russia, and that is why Sweden and Finland will be a much welcomed addition to NATO.

Again, I thank my colleagues for organizing this colloquy, and I urge this body to move very quickly to confirm the U.S. support of Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I know we have a vote coming up. I have brief remarks, and I ask unanimous consent to complete them before the vote starts.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to join with my five colleagues who have been here today and the two people who were with us, Senator DURBIN and Senator FISCHER.

I would say one of the great things about this effort was the unanimous feeling that all seven of us had about both what is happening in NATO and our commitment to win in Ukraine. We were able to demonstrate that to every group we met with from every country we met with. I think with the strong leadership of Chairmen SHAHEEN and TILLIS that it made an impression on where we were and the unity we have on this.

It would be interesting to know if Putin was more surprised by the Ukrainian resistance, the poor performance of his own military, or my guess would be he may have been most surprised by what has happened at NATO—the great turnaround of the NATO—the current NATO countries and their commitment to NATO, their commitment to what they have been willing to do and pledged to do with NATO and then to see these two incredibly important security contributors join NATO after 73 years of being neutral and an important part of the world and saw that as part of their long-term commitment.

But both Finland and Sweden, which, by the way, have been NATO contributors for some time now in terms of being willing to be part of NATO missions, training with their future NATO

allies—all that is incredibly important, but these countries not only bring incredible security contributions to NATO, they also bring significant geographic contributions to NATO. When you look at a map, suddenly not just Norway, which has been in NATO, but Sweden and Finland in NATO has an incredible impact on the ability of what happens in the Baltic. That is important to us as we look to the future.

Now, with the exception of Russia, every country that borders and has part of a claim on the Arctic will be a NATO country. This is a part of the world we have been talking about much more the last 5 years than we did the previous 25 years. To have this NATO unity as we look at the Arctic is an important thing.

The 800-mile border that Finland has shared for years and defended for years against Russia doubles the NATO border in Europe.

The intimate understanding that both Sweden and Finland have of Russia brings a different point of view and a helpful point of view to NATO.

For the current members, particularly the new members of NATO, when you look at these Baltic countries of Estonia and Latvia and Lithuania and then look at Poland and Romania, seeing what happens when the unity is created and the force multiplier is there—I have heard my colleagues already talk about the jet planes, the submarines, the navy, the air force that both of these people bring, the cyber ability that both of them bring to the fight is real.

You know, in a meeting that I was in before this meeting occurred with the Latvian Defense Minister, the Latvian Defense Minister, one of the newest members of NATO, one of the most vulnerable members of NATO as we have looked at NATO for some time, said: We don't want to be rescued by NATO; we want to be defended by NATO.

I think today, as we see the growth of NATO, we see a NATO that is willing to do its job defending its members in this most successful alliance of all time. There has never been anything like it. President Truman was the leader in putting this together in 1949. Here we are 73 years later. In my view, NATO not only has its largest group of members but also its most powerful and committed group of members in the history of this alliance.

I look forward to being on the Senate floor when the Senate does its job to welcome Sweden and Finland to NATO, and I am pleased that process has started.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON VAZIRANI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vazirani nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is sufficient second.
The clerk will call the roll.
The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 244 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Capito	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lummis	Sullivan
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McConnell	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Moran	Warnock
Crapo	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Peters	
Graham	Portman	

NAYS—21

Blackburn	Hagerty	Marshall
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Kennedy	Shelby
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—6

Blumenthal	Luján	Sasse
Leahy	Risch	Schumer

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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 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. 1037, Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Tina Smith, Angus S. King, Jr., Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla,

Chris Van Hollen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine.

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 Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Feinstein	Ossoff	Warren
Fischer	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan		

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Inhofe	Shelby
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—6

Blumenthal	Luján	Sasse
Leahy	Risch	Schumer

(Mr. KAINÉ assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:09 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. DETTELBACH

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, last week on the Fourth of July, a day meant to celebrate freedom and independence, we witnessed another act of senseless violence—this time, in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park.

Yet again, more Americans have been murdered while going about their daily lives—this time, attending an Independence Day parade.

Yet again, a community grieves. Yet again, we ask: How many times are we going to allow this to happen?

The bipartisan gun safety bill was important—long overdue progress, finally.

Today, we have the opportunity to keep up that work together and take another important step in protecting Americans from violent gun crimes by confirming a permanent ATF Director.

I urge my colleagues to support President Biden's nominee, Steve Dettelbach, from Cleveland, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

There is no better person for this role than Steve Dettelbach, a son of Ohio, a career public servant, with the experience and the record to combat violent crime and keep Americans safe.

As U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Steve worked with law enforcement, including ATF, to prosecute tough cases.

I have known Steve Dettelbach for years. I have watched him tackle some of the Department of Justice's most sensitive cases—cases at the intersection of law enforcement and civil rights.

He prosecuted a White supremacist who tried to burn down First Azusa Apostolic Faith Church, a predominantly Black church in my wife's home county of Ashtabula, in a community called Conneaut, OH. Steve not only prosecuted the man responsible, he helped create a clergy group, United Against Hate.

When he prosecuted the firebombing of the largest mosque in Northwest Ohio, Steve, a practicing Jew, attended worship services there as a show of solidarity. He has lived the value of religious freedom. He has consistently stood up against extremism and hate.

Steve Dettelbach understands that politics must play no role in running the ATF. His experience, his record bear that out. That is why he has broad support from across the ideological spectrum, including prosecutors, including law enforcement officials who understand what it takes to do this job.