

and to keep our economy competitive against global actors like the Chinese Communist Party and to lower rising costs for hard-working families all across Georgia and all across our country.

Now, I know that there might be disappointment from some of my colleagues that we are not able to pass the more robust package right now that we have been working on and negotiating since last April. And, honestly, I share that disappointment.

As both a member of the Commerce Committee and a member of the committee that has been negotiating the final competition bill, I have been working hard to secure several priorities for Georgia in that package, and I am not about to stop fighting for those priorities.

I am going to keep fighting to get investments and policies like funding for regional tech hubs, for STEM education—an education program that invests in all of our children, in all of our young people—and workforce development passed into law.

But let me be clear: Passing a bill that will strengthen domestic production of one of our country's most valuable resources, semiconductors or chips, is a crucial opportunity to invest in the economy, invest in our security, and our future. And we cannot wait another minute.

I want to shine a spotlight on this because I have heard from Georgians about the importance of this legislation and, specifically, investing and making more chips here in the United States. We know that chips are essential components in the products that support thousands of good-paying jobs in Georgia, not to mention things like cars, cell phones, computers, vacuum cleaners, ATMs. Chips are all around us, a host of products we rely on every single day.

And we know that our chips supply chains are under significant strain, both from production limits and geopolitical threats. But what you may not know is how these issues directly affect workers and companies on the ground all across the State of Georgia—companies like Kia, which has a thriving facility out in West Point, GA, about halfway between Atlanta and Montgomery, AL, on I-85. Semiconductors are essential to the manufacturing of the roughly 340,000 vehicles Kia produces in Georgia every year. At least twice in the past year, this facility, which I have visited on more than one occasion, has had to stop work at the plant because they didn't have enough chips.

They had to stop working, not because they didn't have enough customers, but because they didn't have enough chips. I visited that West Point facility, and I met with some of those workers. And I can tell you that the last thing that those workers need is to miss days off work and money out of their paychecks because we don't manufacture enough of the materials that they work with every single day.

And it is not just car manufacturers in Georgia. The chip shortage is hurting our State's economy in myriad ways, big and small. For instance, Stephen Milner is the CEO of Planters Telephone Cooperative, a member-owned telecommunications provider in Screven County that does broadband expansion, as well as broadband maintenance.

Stephen's company needs equipment to do that work that requires semiconductors, and as he explained recently in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, it has become harder to expand telephone and internet services to new businesses and homes in the rural communities he services because his company can't guarantee that it will get the parts needed to complete the job.

So think about that. The chip shortage isn't just hurting jobs and bottom lines; it is hobbling our ability to expand rural broadband. And farmers all across Georgia will tell you that you can't even farm efficiently without a good broadband connection.

And so this is devastating, especially for rural Georgians. And if we don't act soon, it will get worse. We have got to ensure that all of our citizens can take full advantage of every opportunity in our changing economy. And this is a problem we can solve. We can solve it.

The only thing that gets in the way of this right now is politics. And so we have got to pass this bill. If we produced more chips here at home, it would boost domestic manufacturing, ease supply chain issues, and help begin to lower rising costs for goods that families are experiencing in Georgia and around the country. Why wouldn't we want to take steps to drive down costs for hard-working families right now? We work for them.

Lastly, this bill contains provisions I fought for that will expand these tax incentives to companies down the semiconductor supply chain, supporting economic engines like the high-tech semiconductor plant being built in Covington, GA, that will create 400 new jobs.

There are real economic consequences for people in my State if we do not pass this chips bill and make these investments. These are the human faces of the public policy that we would pass. But that is not the only reason we need to get this bill done as urgently as possible.

It also bears repeating that passing this legislation is critical to our national security and strengthening our competitiveness against global actors like the Chinese Communist Party. Chips are used in technology critical to our national security.

According to a 2020 report from the Semiconductor Industry Association, in 1990—listen—in 1990, the United States represented a 37 percent share of the world's chip manufacturing capacity. Today, that number is 12 percent—from 37 percent to 12 percent.

I submit that that is unacceptable, and it is a threat to our national secu-

rity. As we have heard from Defense Secretary Austin, Commerce Secretary Raimondo, and other administration officials, we are at a tipping point—a tipping point—where international companies are making significant decisions about where they are investing their capital and putting down roots.

In fact, we have already seen several of these entities hesitate to invest in American manufacturing due to inaction and political gamesmanship right here in Washington.

So our ability to rise to this occasion will demonstrate whether the United States is willing to cede the innovation and economic higher ground to the Chinese Communist Party or whether we will stand up to the People's Republic of China and reinvest in the manufacturing and innovation prowess that has made America a lone superpower for decades.

I submit that if we fail to pass this bill immediately, we will set back America's competitiveness for a generation or more. This critical moment requires all of us to put the country above politics. Imagine that: Put the country above politics. Put hard-working American families who are doing the best they can right now above politics and strengthen our Nation's competitiveness.

And so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the strong chips legislation, and let's ensure that the next century, like the 20th century, is the American century.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF NINA NIN-YUEN WANG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate continues its work confirming experienced, diverse nominees to the Federal judiciary.

Today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Nina Wang, nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Judge Wang currently serves as a magistrate judge in the District of Colorado. Prior to joining the bench, she worked in private practice, primarily representing plaintiffs and defendants in a broad range of complex intellectual property matters. Judge Wang also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, a role in which she litigated civil cases on employment, environmental, and civil rights matters.

A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Harvard Law School, she clerked for Judge Peter J. Messitte on the District of Maryland a few years after earning her J.D. The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Judge Wang "well qualified", and she enjoys the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. BENNET and Mr. HICKENLOOPER.

I will support Judge Wang, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON THE WANG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. I ask that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wang nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—58

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

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Fischer	Leahy	Shelby
Kennedy	Moran	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). 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 nomi-

nation of Executive Calendar No. 988, Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Sherrod Brown.

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 Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, 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 Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, and nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Ernst	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Fischer	Leahy	Shelby
Kennedy	Moran	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 41.

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 Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON MALDONADO NOMINATION

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

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

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Kennedy	Leahy
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid