

Prabhakar is very committed to increasing the talent pool that we need in our country.

For the first time in our country's history, the President has elevated the Office of Science and Technology Policy Director to a Cabinet-level post, meaning there will be a scientist in the room for our Nation's most important discussions.

And for the first time in history, with the support of my colleagues here today, Dr. Prabhakar will be the first woman and person of color to serve as the Senate-confirmed OSTP Director.

Dr. Prabhakar will have a lot to do, including developing the whole-of-government science and technology strategies for issues ranging from security to commercial space exploration. And at a time of growing competition, OSTP needs to tell the President and advise our leaders what we need to do to maintain our competitiveness as a nation.

I know, coming from an innovation State, how important the Office of Science and Technology Policy strategies can be in helping our Nation attract and keep the best and brightest and prioritize collaboration between academia and industry. And since Washington has been a STEM leader—in fact, I think we are the most STEM-focused State in the Nation; that is, by number of people involved in STEM—we know that this partnership between the existing workforce and the workforce of tomorrow needs to grow.

I know that, as a former DARPA Director, Dr. Prabhakar will help us with this engine of innovation and growing STEM education in America. Moreover, I know that Dr. Prabhakar will, on many issues, help to improve the participation of women and girls in the issues of STEM.

This is such a big, important issue for us today. But just being at the helm of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, being a woman, being there at the Cabinet level, and advising the President of the United States, I know she will help to deliver a message that young women all across America need to be involved in the sciences to help our Nation in the next phases of innovation. I am so excited that she will be in this position.

I ask my colleagues to support her as a devoted, experienced, and exceptional public servant. These are the kinds of people who we need in government. These are the kinds of people who can make America stronger, safer, and more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Dr. Prabhakar as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam 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 AMANDA BENNETT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today in support of Amanda Bennett to be the Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. State Agency for Global Media.

When autocrats around the world have been cracking down on independent media; when regimes silence opposition with repression and fear; when they shut down the internet, as we have seen in countries like Cuba and Iran; when they actively target the United States and like-minded democratic nations with disinformation campaigns, it is critical for the United States to have a champion of democracy and free speech leading the U.S. Agency for Global Media, someone who can meet the challenge posed by the spread of digital authoritarianism around the world.

Ms. Bennett is prepared to take on that task. She has over two decades of experience in journalism, including as the director of Voice of America. For 23 years, she worked at the Wall Street Journal, including as a correspondent in Beijing, where she came face-to-face with China's authoritarianism. She has seen how their state security forces watch and detain journalists to suppress the truth.

As a former director of Voice of America, she understands the importance of the U.S. Agency for Global Media's networks and American public diplomacy efforts.

Over the course of her career, she served on the boards of the Lenfest Institute and Committee to Protect Journalists.

In short, Ms. Bennett is without a doubt the right person for this position. She will be a tireless advocate for the journalists working at USAGM and an effective steward of its operations. She will also be an invaluable ally to USAGM's independent partners, including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia. She will defend the importance of Radio and TV Marti. And she will be accountable to Congress in these efforts.

It has been almost 2 years since the Agency has had a Senate-confirmed CEO at the helm. It is in dire need of steady leadership that supports independent media.

I enthusiastically support Ms. Bennett. I respectfully urge my colleagues to support her confirmation as well.

#### TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117-1

Madam President, finally, before I yield the floor, I would also like to celebrate the Senate's historic vote today to approve the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

In approving the Kigali Amendment, the Senate took an important step that will have enormous economic and trade benefits for American manufacturing and jobs, but it was also the single most important climate action the Senate and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have taken in more

than 30 years. As wildfires ravage the West, hurricanes devastate Puerto Rico, and catastrophic flooding inundates the Midwest, strong action to fight climate change has never been more urgent.

By voting for the Kigali Amendment today, we voted for maintaining a livable planet with clean water to drink. We voted for a stable food supply for all of humanity. We voted, in a strong bipartisan coalition, to keep American innovation and business at the forefront of the transition to clean energy.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Foreign Relations Committee's ranking member, the senior Senator from Idaho, Senator RISC. His partnership and the tireless efforts of his staff were essential in the Senate's success on Kigali.

I want to thank my staff on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Damian Murphy, staff director; Andrew Keller, chief counsel; Josh Klein; Josh Kretman; Julia Greensfelder; and Megan Bartley. They were essential in getting it to the committee and making us successful.

I urge a positive vote.

I yield the floor.

#### 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 Executive Calendar No. 1055, Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr.

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 Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC).

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 344 Ex.]

## YEAS—60

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

## NAYS—37

Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Ernst	Marshall	Toomey
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Grassley	Moran	Wicker
Hagerty	Murkowski	
Hawley	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—3

Baldwin	Crapo	Risch
---------	-------	-------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 37, and the motion is agreed to.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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. 1097, Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Raphael G. Warnock.

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 Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, 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 Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 345 Ex.]

## YEAS—58

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

## NAYS—38

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Toomey
Ernst	Manchin	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	Wicker
Graham	McConnell	Young
Grassley	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—4

Baldwin	Crapo
Cramer	Risch

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 38.

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 Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

S. RES. 753

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about the state of democracy, both in terms of the upcoming election in Brazil as well as here in the United States.

It is no great secret that, today, democracies around the world are under great threat from rightwing extremism. That obviously includes our own, as we all saw tragically on January 6, 2021, when there was an attack on this very building by those seeking to overturn our Presidential election.

One of the countries where democracy is now under threat is Brazil, the largest nation in Latin America and one of the largest democratic countries in the world. On October 2, less than 2 weeks from now, Brazil will hold its Presidential election. According to

many polls, it appears that the two major candidates in that election are President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Lula da Silva. If no candidate in that election receives over 50 percent of the vote, there will be a runoff election between the top two candidates on October 30.

Mr. President, over the past many months, Brazilians from all sectors of society have publicly expressed serious concerns about ongoing efforts in that country to undermine democracy, including close to 1 million Brazilians who signed an open letter released on July 26, 2022, defending the democratic institutions of Brazil and the rule of law.

And there is, in fact, a very good reason as to why the people in Brazil are concerned about their democracy, and that is that the current President and candidate for reelection, Jair Bolsonaro, has made some very provocative statements which suggest that he might not accept the election results if he loses. In other words, Bolsonaro might attempt to destroy Brazilian democracy and remain in power no matter what the people of Brazil determine in a free and democratic election.

Here are just a few examples of what Mr. Bolsonaro has said over the years.

Back in September 2018, before he won his election, Bolsonaro stated:

I will not accept an election result that is not my own victory.

On September 7, 2021, as reported by the Financial Times, Bolsonaro stated:

There are those who think they can take me from the presidency with the mark of a pen. Well, I say to everyone I have only three possible fates: Arrest, death or victory. And tell the bastards I'll never be arrested. Only God can take me from the presidency.

According to Human Rights Watch, previously, President Bolsonaro had claimed, without providing any evidence, that the last two Presidential elections were fraudulent, including his own election, in which he claimed he got more votes than the final tally showed.

But it is not just Bolsonaro's words that should be of concern to those of us who still believe in democracy. According to a recent survey by the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is experiencing a 335-percent increase in violence directed against political leaders in 2022 relative to 2019.

Mr. President, it is obviously not the business of the United States to determine who the next President of Brazil is or to get involved in Brazil's Presidential elections in any way. That is a decision to be made solely by the people of Brazil through a fair and free election. But it is the business of the United States to make clear to the people of Brazil that our government will not recognize or support a government that comes to power through a military coup or the undermining of a democratic election. That is our business.

In that regard, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to support a resolution