

I urge all my colleagues to support his confirmation. This is what our small business community needs. I would urge my colleagues to ratify his nomination.

With that, I would yield the floor.

Madam President, I would ask consent that we proceed with the vote immediately.

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

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. 81, Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Gary C. Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed.

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 Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 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 Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Budd

Capito	Hoever	Romney
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cotton	Johnson	Rubio
Cramer	Kennedy	Schmitt
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Crux	Lee	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Graham	Moran	Vance
Grassley	Mullin	Wicker
Hagerty	Paul	Young
Hawley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Murray	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54 and the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the confirmation of the Syed nomination be at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader on Thursday, June 8.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask that the Senate resume consideration of the Silfen nomination.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

RURAL PROGRAMMING

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, 46 million Americans live in rural areas. This includes 35 percent of the residents in my home State of Nebraska.

Often, in the government, we focus on the majority of Americans living in urban population hubs, but we have just as much of an obligation to the millions of rural citizens in our country.

Communications access is foundational to our quality of life, especially in rural areas where the closest neighbor can be many miles away. And that is what I want to focus on today.

As a member of the Senate Commerce and Agriculture Committees, I have the privilege of regularly advancing

communications policy that benefits all Americans, including those in rural areas.

I have led multiple pieces of legislation to improve broadband mapping to benefit unserved rural areas, including the broadband funding map that the President signed into law as part of the bipartisan infrastructure package. It is vital that every last mile and acre of our country has access to reliable internet, whether for telehealth appointments or to make use of the more efficient agricultural technologies.

But broadband isn't the only type of communication rural communities rely on, especially for households without internet service. They rely on television programming to keep updated about the world around them. The well-being of rural Americans and a robust media made up of diverse viewpoints are important to me, and they are important to Nebraskans throughout the State. And access to rural and agricultural programming benefits all Americans.

Farmers and ranchers in Nebraska depend on this content for relevant news, information, and lifestyle programming. We are talking about everything from in-depth reports on weather patterns, agribusiness news, and commodity market swings, western sports, and a lot more.

This programming delivers essential information to producers that directly impacts the way that they manage their operations and the way they plan for the future.

At the same time, Americans on the coasts and in major urban and suburban areas also benefit from programming that helps them understand major issues affecting the country that originate in the heartland. And we both know that rural programming doesn't mean old reruns of "Green Acres" or of "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Rural and agricultural programmers are in a unique position to educate the public and what it means to be a family farmer or a rancher, on how producers are some of the best stewards of our natural resources, and on what the future of agriculture and producing the food that we all need looks like.

This is one reason that I was pleased, as ranking member of the Rules Committee, to recently approve RFD-TV to be added to the Senate TV network. RFD-TV is one of the preeminent sources of rural news in the country.

Networks like RFD-TV work hard to cover issues affecting the agricultural sector and rural communities. The senior Senator from Minnesota and I approved its addition to the Senate TV network because that unique perspective and that expertise is a must-have here in Washington, where we all work on policies affecting rural America every single day.

And it is not just TV programming that provides critical news and information to rural communities. Millions of Americans use AM radio to stay up to date on what is affecting them.

In Nebraska, we have a long history of farm broadcasters who help farmers and ranchers thrive. Today, there are still over 40 AM stations that are based in my State.

Unfortunately, there are some who have lost sight of the fundamental role broadcast radio plays in rural America. A number of automakers announced plans this year to remove AM broadcast radio access from some of their vehicles.

This would deal a blow to the millions who need AM radio access in order to receive emergency alerts in remote areas as well as to be aware of local news, weather conditions. AM radio is not just a luxury; it is the backbone of our emergency alert system. It can be a question of life or death for people during natural disasters and severe storms.

My colleagues and I are concerned about how this decision will affect the safety of Americans. And that is why we introduced a bicameral, bipartisan bill to preserve AM radio access, despite some automakers' efforts to get rid of it.

Our bill, the AM for Every Vehicle Act, would direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue a rule that would require all motor vehicles to have access to AM broadcast stations. The legislation is already having an impact. It recently spurred Ford Motor Company to reverse course and to restore access to AM radio in its upcoming car models.

But passing our bill is the only way to prevent other automakers from abandoning AM radio, and it is against the best interests of the millions of people in rural areas where wireless warnings—well, they can be difficult to impossible to receive.

The American people who travel to work and school on rural roads each day are relying on us to ensure that they don't lose access to local news, weather, emergency alerts, and public safety announcements from AM radio.

As Members of the U.S. Senate, we represent millions—millions—of people in rural communities across the country. We cannot let rural voices be set aside while we prioritize other issues.

Let's continue to appreciate rural TV and radio and advance legislation that supports the critical services that they provide.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

CHINA

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the United States and China should talk. The United States wants to, but the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party—the CCP—does not. And, frankly, the leadership of the CCP is acting like a sullen teenager. You can only be young once, but you can always be immature.

Talking does not show weakness. It shows strength. It shows confidence. America is confident. In refusing to talk, the Chinese Communist Party and its insecurities are loud.

Now, the United States, as you know from recent media reports, has tried to talk to China, and we have had some success. Recently, not that long ago, our National Security Advisor and our Commerce Secretary met with their Chinese counterparts. I understand they had good discussions.

I had hoped that that might be a start, but I was wrong. The CCP proved me wrong. For instance, our Defense Secretary, the weekend before last, I believe, was at the annual Singapore Security Conference. Our Defense Secretary asked to meet with Chinese defense officials, a fairly routine request. The defense officials from China snubbed it.

Further, on May 26—you may have read about this in the media—a Chinese fighter jet flew within 400 yards of a U.S. reconnaissance plane flying above the South China Sea in international waters—in international waters. The U.S. plane had to fly threw the Chinese fighter jet's wake, which is very dangerous. It was an unmistakable attempt by the Chinese Communist Party to intimidate.

Further still, just this past weekend, a Chinese naval ship came within 150 yards of a U.S. missile destroyer, yet another intentional and dangerous act. The U.S. ship was in the Taiwan Strait along with a Canadian warship. Both the U.S. ship and the Canadian ship had every right to be there. This was another unmistakable attempt by China to intimidate.

Additionally, hardly a day goes by that the CCP doesn't release a statement denigrating the American people and accusing the United States of wanting to suppress and even destroy China.

Let me be clear. The United States of America does not want to suppress China. The United States of America does not want to destroy China. All we want is for China to become and to act like a responsible member of a stable world order that follows international rules and norms. And that is all the world wants too.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to stop its aggression. All we want and all the world wants is for China to stop manipulating its currency.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to leave Taiwan alone. All we want and all the world wants is for China to end its attempt to militarize the South China Sea and the East China Sea, which are international waters.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to stop poisoning our children with fentanyl. Stop it.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to end its "debt trap" diplomacy through its Belt and Road Initiative and other loan schemes.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to cease using its economic power to bully other sovereign countries—like Australia, like Lithuania—when those countries offer an opinion

the Communist Party of China doesn't like.

All we want and all the world wants is for China to tell us the truth—the truth—about how the COVID virus started, or at least work with us and other countries so we can find out.

I could, of course, continue this list, but I won't.

So let me repeat. The United States and China should talk. The advantages are and ought to be obvious.

Why should we talk? To avoid military conflict. It is a pretty good start. To avoid miscalculation. The more silence there is between us, the more Beijing underestimates American strength.

Why should we talk? To limit the risk of accidental confrontation, to pursue bilateral detente, because our economies are interwoven, because our economies are stronger together if everyone plays by the rules.

Why should we talk? To seek peace in Ukraine; to develop a mutual plan for how we should respond to advancements in technology, like artificial intelligence, like quantum computing; to talk about space; to discuss fair trade policies for products that don't have national security implications.

Why should we talk? To prepare for the next pandemic—it is just a thought—to develop cheaper and cleaner energy, to avoid nuclear war, to avoid destroying the human race.

Look, if China doesn't want to talk, that would be a shame. But it is hard to fix somebody who doesn't want to be fixed. It would also be China's loss. It would be China's loss not to talk.

For years, China has tried to portray itself to the world as mighty, as successful, as peace-loving. And I hope someday China is all of those things.

China, for years, has tried to portray itself to the world as a gentle giant. For a while, it worked. It worked until it didn't. The world now sees a different China. The world now sees a China that mismanaged COVID, that is on the wrong side of the Ukraine war, that is destroying Hong Kong, that has militarized the South and East China Seas.

The world now sees a China that punishes its own people—the Uighurs and the good people of Tibet—that denies even the most basic civil rights to its Han Chinese majority, including the right to self-determine, including the right even to access an uncensored internet.

The world sees a China that tries to bully other sovereign countries.

The world now sees a China whose population is shrinking, whose people are aging without a safety net for its elderly, whose young, college-educated children can't find a job, whose housing market is in turmoil.

The world now sees a China whose debt is unmanageable, whose technology sector has been purposely, intentionally stunted by its own political leadership.

The world now sees a China whose capital markets are flailing, whose