

These challenges require a U.S. partnership. We need a confirmed ambassador. We need to work together on operations. We need to work together on tactics. We need to work together on strategy with Israel. It is so much more difficult for us to be able to do that without a confirmed ambassador in Jerusalem.

How are we going to diplomatically engage at the highest levels in the region if we don't have a confirmed ambassador? It makes it much more difficult. Who is going to lead our mission to help the more than half a million American citizens who live in Israel? It is made much more difficult without a confirmed ambassador.

I want to make it clear that our Chargé d'Affaires in Jerusalem, Stephanie Hallett, is doing a phenomenal job, as are the men and women of our mission in Jerusalem. And they deserve our thanks, our appreciation for being on the frontline to represent America's interest. There is no question about their loyalty and their dedication to the mission. The U.S. team at Mission Israel is the best in the field, but that is no substitute for a confirmed ambassador.

Jacob Lew is eminently qualified to serve in this post. He has extensive experience. He has the political acumen that we need for our Ambassador at this time. He has the respect of the Israeli officials.

The Foreign Minister tweeted that they look forward to working with Jack Lew in "the spirit of our close cooperation and alliance."

The Jerusalem Post said:

Jack Lew is a worthy nominee and a mensch.

Support for his nomination ranges from the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center to the Anti-Defamation League.

Last week, he advanced out of the Foreign Relations Committee on a bipartisan vote. I want to thank my colleagues who worked so hard to get him through the committee.

Of course, this would not be the first time that Secretary Lew has had the support of the Senate. He has been nominated for a number of positions, and this body has confirmed him with overwhelming support in the past.

Now, with Israel at war, with Hamas holding hostages in their tunnels in Gaza, with the entire world watching, given the stakes of the situation, given that Israel is fighting to defend itself, given that American lives are at risk, we cannot afford any delay. Israel cannot afford a delay.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support cloture on Jack Lew's nomination so we can get the confirmation vote without delay. I hope that you will support these efforts.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW JAMES MADDOX

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Matthew James Maddox to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

A native Marylander, Judge Maddox received his B.A. from Morgan State University and his J.D. from Yale Law School before clerking for Judge Gerald Bruce Lee on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Following his clerkship, Judge Maddox worked as an associate at Holland & Knight LLP, where he primarily represented business clients in civil litigation, regulatory compliance, and risk management matters. He then completed a second clerkship with Judge Andre Davis on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Maddox spent the bulk of his legal career working in public service as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland. Last year, he was appointed by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland to serve as a magistrate judge. The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Maddox as "well qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home state Senators, Mr. CARDIN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

With significant experience in both criminal and civil matters and a proven dedication to equal justice under law, Judge Maddox will serve the District of Maryland with distinction.

I am proud to support his nomination.

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

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

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 4366, the following amendments are expected to be made pending, as provided under the order of October 24: Hawley No. 1200, Cruz No. 1296, Blackburn-Warner No. 1349, and Budd No. 1243.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be up to 10 minutes debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on amendment No. 1296, with all previous provisions remaining in effect.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, Senators should expect four rollcall votes beginning at 2:30 p.m. today.

I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 11:30 begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON MADDOX NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARDIN. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Lee	Scott (SC)	Tillis
-----	------------	--------

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. 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. 370, Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Israel.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin.

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 Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Israel, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Ernst	Murkowski
Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoehen	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—3

Lee	Scott (SC)	Tillis
-----	------------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Israel.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled

when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF JACOB J. LEW

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists murdered 33 Americans and 1,400 Israelis in the deadliest terrorist attack since September 11, 2001. These depraved savages killed more Jews in a single day than any time since the Holocaust.

Israel is now at war and on the verge of what could be its bloodiest battle in a generation. And the struggle is real. It is not only fighting Hamas and Gaza, it is fighting a confederation of Iranian-trained, funded, and armed terrorist organizations. From the Houthis in Yemen to Hezbollah in Lebanon, to Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the West Bank, Iran is besieging Israel by proxy. At the same time, Iran is conducting extensive attacks against Americans in the region.

Since Joe Biden took office, Iran and its proxies have attacked American forces more than 100 times.

Let me say that again: 100 times.

That is why we need a person of strength as the U.S. Ambassador in Israel. We need an ambassador who is a champion of the American-Israeli relationship who can bridge the Democratic-driven divide in the alliance. We need an ambassador who is clear-eyed about the Iranian threat and prepared to confront it.

Instead, President Biden has nominated Jack Lew, who at times seems a better friend to Tehran than Jerusalem. The U.S. Senate should reject this nomination to be Ambassador to Israel. A vote for him is a vote to subvert, not strengthen, our ally in its time of need.

As President Obama's Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew was the leading proponent of the disastrous Iran nuclear deal. The deal delivered more than \$100 billion to the ayatollahs. Mr. Lew called the agreement a strong deal and said:

[I]t will make our country safer, it will make our allies safer, and it will make the world safer.

He apparently didn't consult our allies, though, before making that statement because our allies in Israel certainly didn't agree. In fact, Prime Minister Netanyahu called the agreement "a very bad deal." And one poll found that 73 percent of Jewish Israelis believed that the deal posed an existential threat to the Jewish State.

Prime Minister Netanyahu was so opposed to the Iran deal, which Mr. Lew championed, that he traveled to the United States and addressed a joint session of this Congress to urge our opposition.

Mr. Lew condemned Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech as "beyond the pale" and "a huge mistake." Appar-

ently, Mr. Lew also did not consult our own Democratic leader, the Senator from New York, who also voted against the disastrous Iran deal.

Worse still, Mr. Lew stood with President Obama when he refused to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel. This was nothing but an act of spite by Barack Obama against Israel's leadership. Yet Mr. Lew stood by his boss, dismissively asserting that "I don't think it's a great thing for Israel to always have only the United States standing between it and condemnation."

So, according to Mr. Lew, I guess it is better to have Israel condemned than to have Israel's back. Mr. Lew, apparently, doesn't understand that doing what is right is sometimes lonely business.

The next American Ambassador to Israel must be prepared for the hard and lonely work of sometimes standing up against the rest of the region and, indeed, the rest of the world in defense of American and Israeli interests.

Mr. Lew's glib comments demonstrate that he lacks either the nerve or the will to stand up for Israel when it really matters and the chips are down, as they are today.

But Mr. Lew didn't just advocate on behalf of the Iran nuclear deal or attack its Israeli critics; he lied to Congress to protect the deal—indeed, to go beyond what the nuclear deal required. Mr. Lew told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the summer of 2015 that Iran would "continue to be denied access to the [American] financial and commercial market."

Mr. Lew also testified that Iranian banks "will continue to be denied access to the world's largest financial and commercial market."

But 7 months later, in early 2016, Jack Lew's Treasury Department granted a license to convert almost \$6 billion of Iranian assets into American currency using our financial system. This was not required by the Iran nuclear deal. This went over and above the dictates of that deal. But apparently Barack Obama and Jack Lew felt bad for the murderous ayatollahs because they weren't getting enough economic benefit out of the deal.

He even pressured two American banks to complete the transaction, and they, sanely and patriotically, said: No thanks. We don't want to touch Iran's blood money.

If that is not lying to Congress, I don't really know what is. But in addition to lying, Mr. Lew neglected to inform Congress that his department was sending its representatives around the world to encourage foreign countries and companies to do business with Iran.

According to a Senate committee report, authored by former Senator Robert Portman, the Treasury and State Department conducted more the 200 so-called road shows in foreign cities to encourage economic engagement with Tehran.