

Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 327 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—50

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

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. Are there any Senators in the Chamber who wish to vote or change their vote?

If not, on this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam Vice President, today is historic. Vice President HARRIS has just cast her 32nd tiebreaking vote—the most tiebreakers ever. I join all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, thanking the Vice President for her leadership and for making the work of the Senate possible.

The record Vice President HARRIS sets today is significant not just because of the number but because of what she has made possible with tiebreaking votes. Without her tiebreaking votes, there would be no American Rescue Plan, no Inflation Reduction Act, and we would not have confirmed many of the excellent Federal judges now presiding on the bench. Every time duty has called, Vice President HARRIS has answered more than any other Vice President in our Nation's long and storied history.

Today, I also want to thank the Vice President for doing all of this while

juggling the immense responsibilities of her office. She has led the charge on protecting freedom of choice. She has fought for climate justice, criminal justice reform, and commonsense gun safety. Our children—our children—will live in a healthier, more secure, more prosperous nation thanks to her lifetime of service.

So thank you, Vice President HARRIS. This is a great milestone, and yours is an even greater legacy. Let us continue working together to make life better for all Americans.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Thank you, majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. As for a little house-keeping after that history, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak, followed by Senators HAGERTY and KAINÉ, prior to the recess; further, that all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and further, that following the confirmation vote on the AliKhan nomination, the Senate recess for the all-Senators briefing until 4:30 p.m.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Virginia, Senator KAINÉ.

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

MEXICO

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I am here today to discuss worrying developments in Mexico, one of the United States' most important international partners and our neighbor to the south.

The nearly 2,000-mile border that our nations share both binds us together and presents a series of challenges, including illegal migration, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. As we work through those difficult issues, our robust economic relationship has provided a firm foundation to strengthen and stabilize our efforts with an eye toward the future. The innovative United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, deepened the connections between our economies such that Mexico is now one of our largest and most strategic trading partners.

However, actions over the past 2 years by the government of Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador have weakened that bond and are threatening the economic and diplomatic ties between our nations. Through increasingly arbitrary and aggressive moves against companies based here in the United States and their lawfully owned assets in Mexico, the Mexican Government has abused its permitting and regulatory powers in ways that violate the letter and the spirit of our trade agreements, not to mention the special relationship historically enjoyed between our two countries. These decisions directly impact critical sectors of the U.S. econ-

omy from agriculture to energy and mining and from transportation to tourism.

These capricious actions, which are falsely labeled as “reforms,” risk substantially undermining confidence in the commercial rule of law in Mexico. They also jeopardize the essential economic relations between North American partners. Further, these actions likely violate our trade agreements by abrogating contracts, stripping investors of value, and eliminating private competition and oversight, thereby sending a clear message to U.S. capital markets that Mexico is no longer safe or profitable for investing.

I want to highlight the specific case of Vulcan Materials. For almost 2 years now, President Lopez Obrador has personally harassed, interfered with, and obstructed Vulcan's lawful operations in Mexico.

Vulcan is a U.S.-based construction aggregates company with a strong Tennessee and, I might add, a strong Virginia presence that has more than a 30-year track record of responsibly operating in Mexico and investing in the community that surrounds its Mexican facility.

In May of 2022, President Lopez Obrador ordered the illegal shutdown of Vulcan's operations, which had an immediate and detrimental impact on the supply of construction aggregates to the United States.

Then, in March of 2023, President Lopez Obrador ordered a military invasion of Vulcan's property and occupied the company's quarry and port for 2 weeks. As shocking as this sounds, video footage of this invasion is available online.

President Lopez Obrador has initiated a process to illegally take the company's property by declaring it a supposed naturally protected area.

The President of Mexico is abusing a process designed to protect regionwide ecosystems in order to illegally expropriate land that, coincidentally, exactly matches Vulcan's property lines. This is an egregious abuse of the law that undermines the very trust that should be foundational to the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

By illegally closing Vulcan's business and now attempting to steal their property, the Mexican President is signaling to other American companies that Mexico cannot be trusted when it comes to foreign investment.

If not quickly corrected, actions like these risk choking off the economic relationship between our two nations.

Many important supply chains stretch across the U.S.-Mexico border, supplying millions of good jobs and making both countries more attractive for capital investment.

This is certainly true for my home State of Tennessee. Because of the successes that I witnessed between my home State of Tennessee and Mexico, I have been a strong advocate for reshoring integrated supply chains from Communist China to North America.

Building upon the successes of USMCA as a foundational component of North American competitiveness supports both American and Mexican economic prosperity and both nations' national security.

But without a basic respect for private property and the rule of law, the prospects for expanding our shared economic and national security via commerce and investment are greatly diminished.

In fact, failing to protect private property and the rule of law will inevitably lead to the disintegration of our economic ties. Therefore, I again urge President Lopez Obrador to reverse course before more damage is done.

Instead, we should be looking for opportunities to work together to attract investment and unlock the economic opportunity that is being presented to both of our nations as supply chains are rebalanced away from communist China.

Let's seize this opportunity together rather than damage our shared interests for short-term political gains.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I join my friend and colleague from Tennessee who, in addition to being on the Foreign Relations Committee, has background in the private sector as an economic development official for the State of Tennessee and also as a diplomat in his service as Ambassador to Japan.

The issue that we are talking about is one about the economy and the economic relations between the United States and Mexico; but also, it is about diplomacy.

We are here to speak about the Mexican Government's unfair targeting of this one business, Vulcan Materials Company, but they can stand as an example for many others.

Vulcan is headquartered in Alabama, but they employ more than 1,000 people in the Commonwealth of Virginia at more than 70 facilities, and they have been legally operating this construction material facility and port in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico for more than 30 years.

The Mexican Government in recent years, under the direction of the President of Mexico, has taken a set of actions, to include the recent filing of a regulatory notice that they intend to take over Vulcan's property in the Yucatan. This is a matter about trade; but to be sure, it is also a matter about the rule of law.

Last December, we celebrated the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico. Our two countries share a 2,000-mile border, extensive trade, security, and economic relations. The relationship, as my colleague shared, is a consequential one. But that relationship will suffer unless Mexico chooses a different direction with respect to foreign investment.

Mexico is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD. That is the international forum designed to promote sustainable economic growth.

The OECD membership is made up of 38 democratic countries with market-based economies, countries as small as Iceland and as large as the United States but who share a commitment to democracy, rule of law, trade, and economic growth.

If you are a member of the OECD, you rest pretty comfortable in the fact that 80 percent of global trade, by many estimates, come through these 38 countries, and nearly 60 percent of the world's GDP are through OECD nations.

The OECD's last economic survey of Mexico pointed out some trouble signs. They indicated that investment in Mexico has been weak for the last 9 years since 2015. And they made a key recommendation that if Mexico wants to be stronger in the OECD pillar values, they should provide investors with certainty and regulatory stability.

The report notes that "with appropriate policy settings," Mexico could "reap further benefits from the strong recovery in the United States and the ongoing reorganization of global supply chains closer to consumer markets." In other words, Mexico has a huge upside in an economy that is globally coming out of COVID.

But this type of behavior by the Mexican Government against companies like Vulcan is exactly what is limiting Mexico's ability to reap the benefits of OECD membership.

Senator HAGERTY and I are supporters of nearshoring and closer economic engagement not just with Mexico but with other nations in the Western Hemisphere. We are original cosponsors of S. Res. 273, which we introduced earlier this year, calling on the need to promote stronger economic relations between the United States, Canada, and countries in Latin America and Caribbean.

I am not going to repeat my endlessly repeated concern that American diplomacy too often moves on an east-west axis and not a north-south axis. I have spoken about that often. We both want to have a more robust north-south axis, whether it is about trade, diplomacy, or security assistance. And Mexico is key to this.

If we want to look at nearshoring, the Mexican example already through the USMCA of supply chain integration with the United States is a great example. But this is all jeopardized if foreign investors believe that their land can be taken; that they can be invaded by the Mexican military; that decades of providing jobs and investment can be taken away at the whim of the individual who is President.

We are seeing a historic shift in global supply chains right now. That could be to Mexico's advantage. But if Mexico continues on the kind of behavior that Senator HAGERTY and I are dis-

cussing today, Mexico will fall short of this opportunity that is right at its doorstep.

I support the State Department's efforts to assist and advocate for U.S. businesses in Mexico, including making clear to the Mexican Government that their treatment of Vulcan and other companies will undermine U.S. and international confidence in that country.

I urge the government to refrain from moving in this counterproductive direction. And I thank my colleague from Tennessee, Senator HAGERTY, and others in this body who are focused on this issue. I thank them for maintaining a focus. I am doing everything I can to make sure this works out the right way.

With that, I would like to yield back to my colleague from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I thank Senator KAINE for lending his expertise as a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and, most importantly, as chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. I thank the Senator from Virginia for bringing his respected voice to this matter of serious diplomatic concern. As former Governor of his home State of Virginia, he has an acute appreciation of the economic opportunity that exists that is in danger of being destroyed by the illegal actions of the Mexican President. So thank you very much for joining me in this.

NOMINATION OF LOREN L. ALIKHAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Loren L. AliKhan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Born in Baltimore, MD, Judge AliKhan earned her J.D., magna cum laude, at the Georgetown University Law Center. She also received her B.A., summa cum laude, and A.A., with distinction, from Bard College at Simon's Rock. After law school, Judge AliKhan completed clerkships on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She then served as a Bristow Fellow in the Solicitor General's Office at the U.S. Department of Justice. Judge AliKhan then worked as an associate and later counsel at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. There, she represented companies in matters involving contract interpretation, statutory interpretation, class certification, antitrust, patent infringement, and products liability.

From 2018 to 2022, Judge AliKhan served as solicitor general in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia after previously serving as acting solicitor general and deputy solicitor general. In that role, she was responsible for the District's litigation in local and Federal trial and appellate courts on issues including constitutional law, criminal law, employment discrimination, tax, and torts. In 2022, Judge AliKhan was confirmed to the DC Court of Appeals, where she has heard approximately 100