

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

appeals as a member of a merits panel and has issued 200 decisions as a member of a motions panel.

The American Bar Association rated Judge AliKhan as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also received several letters of support for Judge AliKhan's nomination to the Federal bench, including from a bipartisan group of current and former State solicitors general across the country.

Judge AliKhan's qualifications, including her judicial and litigation experience, make her exceptionally qualified to serve on the Federal bench. I am proud to support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HAGERTY. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:09 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. SHAHEEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON ALIKHAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the AliKhan nomination?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 328 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	Lujan	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	Crapo	Kennedy
Blackburn	Cruz	Lankford
Boozman	Daines	Lee
Braun	Ernst	Lummis
Britt	Fischer	Manchin
Budd	Graham	Marshall
Capito	Grassley	McConnell
Cassidy	Hagerty	Moran
Collins	Hawley	Mullin
Cornyn	Hoeven	Murkowski
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Cramer	Johnson	Ricketts

Risch	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Romney	Scott (SC)	Vance
Rounds	Sullivan	Wicker
Rubio	Thune	Young
Schmitt	Tillis	

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, and the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

The nomination was confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. 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.

The Senator from Vermont.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Richards nomination occur at 5:15 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask that the Senate resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 144.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

RECESS

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:42 p.m., recessed until 4:31 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. REED).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have the happy duty of asking unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc—it is a lot of numbers, so I will read them slowly for the sake of being transcribed—Calendar Nos. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 180, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 205, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228,

229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 293, 294, 295, 296, 325, 326, 327, 330, 331, 332, 336, 337, 339, 340, 342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422—excepting Col. David D. Berkland, Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson, COL John W. Sannes, COL Andrew O. Saslav, CAPT Brian J. Anderson, Brig. Gen. Scott A. Cain, Brig. Gen. Paul D. Moga, and BG Lawrence G. Ferguson; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Executive Calendar Nos. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 180, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 205, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 293, 294, 295, 296, 325, 326, 327, 330, 331, 332, 336, 337, 339, 340, 342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422—excepting Col. David D. Berkland, Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson, COL John W. Sannes, COL Andrew O. Saslav, CAPT Brian J. Anderson, Brig. Gen. Scott A. Cain, Brig. Gen. Paul D. Moga, and BG Lawrence G. Ferguson?

The nominations confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Leigh A. Swanson

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Sean A. Gainey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Laurence S. Linton

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203: