

“just and reasonable.” It oversees electric reliability. It licenses interstate natural gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas terminals, and hydropower projects.

By one estimate, the Commission regulates activities that account for 7 percent of our Nation’s economy. For that reason, we must fulfill our responsibility to maintain a quorum on the Commission.

In 2015 and 2016, President Obama refused to fill the vacancies left by two Republican Commissioners. Then in January of 2017, the outgoing Chairman of FERC resigned as well. The departure left the Commission without a quorum.

It then took 7 full months to restore the quorum at FERC. During that time, too many projects that help keep the lights on, help heat our homes, and aid our allies abroad were reluctantly put on hold.

We can’t let that happen again. Too much is at stake for American workers, for our energy security, and for our Nation’s economy. That is why I am glad the Senate is acting on these three nominations this very week. While I may not agree with each of the nominees on all of the items all of the time, all of them are well qualified.

I am especially supportive of Ms. Lindsay See. From a young age, she has distinguished herself as a person of exemplary discipline, drive, and determination. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Patrick Henry College. She then graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where she served as the executive editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. After law school, she clerked for Judge Thomas Griffith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

Ms. See is an outstanding appellate lawyer. She has spent the last 7 years as solicitor general of West Virginia. During that time, she has overseen civil and criminal appeals in both State and Federal courts. Ms. See has fought tirelessly for affordable and reliable energy for American families. She has argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. In one of those cases, she not only advocated on behalf of West Virginia, she also advocated on behalf of other States, including my home State of Wyoming. And she won.

Ms. See has a long track record of giving a voice to people who are impacted by Federal actions. In fact, my concern for farmers and other landowners is a principal reason why I do support Ms. See.

During the Energy and Natural Resource Committee’s hearing on the nomination, Ms. See was asked if she would “exercise extreme care” when considering applications for electric transmission lines. Of course she said yes. She went on to explain that she would faithfully adhere to and apply the law.

When she received written questions, she again committed to follow the law. Ms. See wrote:

My time as West Virginia’s Solicitor General has given me a profound respect for the ways federal policies affect people across the country.

She added:

I’ve seen how federal rules and permitting actions can threaten people’s livelihoods and local economies.

Ms. See went on to say:

Sensitivity to how federal actions affect States and local communities is essential when making policy decisions.

She said:

I would consider a proposal’s consequences for local landowners . . . important to the public interest analysis.

If confirmed, Ms. See will bring an impressive experience list, working with complex statutes, to the Commission. She will also help the Commission understand how its decisions impact farmers and other landowners.

I firmly believe that if we fail to confirm Ms. See, farmers and landowners will be worse off. For that reason, I encourage all Senators to vote in favor of Ms. See.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

FARM BILL

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, just a few minutes ago, the ranking member of our Ag Committee, the senior Senator from Arkansas, Senator BOOZMAN, put forth a statement of principles that he has developed with his outstanding staff that really identify and describe a framework that we absolutely need in the farm bill.

As you know, we have a 1-year extension in place on the farm bill. You know, it is something that is just incredibly important, and it has to get done on a bipartisan basis, and so we need to get it done. If we can’t get it done before the end of this year, we are going to have to put another 1-year extension on the farm program in place.

You know, when we talk about our farmers and ranchers and we talk about the farm bill and we talk about farm policy, you know, we think we are kind of just focused on agriculture, and that is really not the case. I mean, good farm policy in this country gives us the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. Well, who does that impact on a daily basis? Everybody. Every single person in this country every single day, multiple times a day. Highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. More choice. Higher quality. Better food than anywhere else in the world. And—and—Americans spend less of their budget on their food than any other developed country. I would say that is something we should not take for granted.

It is amazing—you know, I mean, I think nowadays so many people don’t come from the farm anymore. You know, obviously we are a huge ag State, and we still have a lot of nexus with farming, but a lot of places don’t. They think, wow, food comes from the grocery stores. Well, it doesn’t. It is produced by our farmers and ranchers every single day.

So, you know, that is one of those things that are just incredibly important. Until we don’t have it, until we don’t have this network of family farms and ranches across this country that gives us something that is better than anywhere else in the world, you know, we take it for granted. We can’t do that.

So we need to get a farm bill done, and we need to get it right. That is why I am here, is because if we follow the framework that Senator BOOZMAN just laid out, we will get it right, and so we need to do it. That is the simple point I want to make, that that is the framework we need to embrace on a bipartisan basis, on a bicameral basis, get it passed, get it to the President, and get it in place, and I would say for our farmers and ranchers but really what I am saying: for every single American every single day.

I want to start out by thanking Senator BOOZMAN; but most of all, I want to thank our hard-working farmers and ranchers who face incredible challenges whether it is weather, whether it is trade policy. You know, I mean, it is all the things that they don’t control; but year in and year out, they go out and they plant a crop and they raise livestock and they feed the world. And those challenges are what they face, like I say, every single year.

Now, this year, they are looking at lower farm net income. They are looking at record-high input costs. Obviously, inflation and high interest rates have put a real squeeze on their operations. You know, it is often said that farm bills are written for bad times, not good times; and that is what we have got to keep in mind. The whole concept of this farm bill is that it is countercyclical. It makes sure that it provides help to farmers and ranchers when they need it, and, you know, obviously, when they don’t need it, then it is not there. Of course, that is the way it should be. That is not only what affects farmers and ranchers, that is what is most beneficial in terms of the hard-working taxpayers of this country.

Of course, Senator BOOZMAN’s framework does just exactly that. It makes the investments we need in the farm safety net, and that is, ultimately, the bedrock and the foundation of what the farm bill is all about. He emphasizes that in a lot of different ways, whether it is strengthening crop insurance, which we, obviously, have to have as it is very important; improving the access to credit for our farmers and ranchers; and also making sure that our livestock producers—our ranchers as well as our farmers—are able to operate year in and year out and that, for the next generation, we are doing every single thing we can to bring that next generation into farming and ranching.

Remember, there are about 16 million people across the country who are either directly or indirectly involved in agriculture. The average age now for these family farms and ranches—the

average age of the principal—is about 60 years old. We also have to make sure that we are bringing this next generation into farming and that we are keeping that family farm, that family ranch, that network of millions of small businesses across this country that feed and fuel the world—we need to make sure that we do everything we can to sustain it, and Senator BOOZMAN's framework does that.

Let's come together in a bipartisan way—in a bipartisan way on our Ag Committee and in a bicameral way—and get this thing done for our farmers, for our ranchers, and for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the See cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FERC NOMINATIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I spoke at some length about the important work of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission yesterday. I spoke also about the statutory requirement that the Commission members be able “to assess fairly the needs and concerns of all interest affected by Federal energy policy.”

I believe that is why an earlier Congress, when it created the Department of Energy in 1977 and concentrated most energy functions in the hands of the Secretary of Energy, insisted on maintaining a separate, independent, five-member collegial body for electric and natural gas regulation.

When it comes to fairly assessing all interests, five heads are better than one. Bringing together five different people with five different life experiences and perspectives helps ensure that all affected interests will be heard and fairly considered and assessed.

David Rosner, Lindsay See, and Judy Chang are very different people from very different backgrounds. What matters most is their willingness to work with one another, to consider and assess fairly different interests and points of view, and to put partisan passions aside in favor of the public interest.

After meeting all three and listening to them testify and watching them respond to Senators' questions, I am convinced that all three are willing and able to work with each other and with Chairman PHILLIPS and Commissioner Christie on the Commission to ensure energy reliability and affordability for American consumers.

Lindsay See is currently the solicitor general of West Virginia, a post she has held for the past 6 years. In that role, she represents my State's legal interests in both State and Federal courts, including before the U.S. Supreme Court.

As Lindsay explained in her testimony before our committee, “energy-adjacent matters are front-and-center” for West Virginia's solicitor general, and she has worked on “dozens of cases and rulemakings” which demonstrated “that grid reliability, regulatory certainty, and affordable energy are essentials.”

Prior to her appointment as solicitor general, she served as a special assistant in the West Virginia Attorney General's Office for 2 years. Before that, she practiced appellate and administrative law for 5 years at a law firm here in Washington, DC. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she clerked for Judge Thomas Griffith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

She is plainly a very capable and experienced lawyer and well qualified to serve on the Commission.

Judy Chang is an energy economics and policy expert with more than 20 years of experience working with energy companies, trade associations, and governments on regulatory and financial issues as they relate to investment decisions in energy generation, transmission, and storage.

She served as the under secretary of Energy and Climate Solutions, under Governor Charles Baker from Massachusetts, where she helped develop Massachusetts' Clean Energy and Climate Plan.

I can think of no better preparation for serving on a bipartisan commission than working for a Republican administration in a very, very blue State.

Judy also has been an adjunct lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a senior fellow at the Kennedy School's center for business and government.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of California at Davis and a master of public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Energy reliability and affordability is perhaps more personal to Judy than most of us. In her testimony before our committee, Judy explained that when she was growing up in Taiwan, power outages were a daily event. She said that “from a young age, my parents instilled in me the principle that no resource should ever be wasted, working hard to save every penny . . .”

We will all be served well by having that perspective on the Commission.

We have three extremely qualified, capable, honorable people who are willing to serve our great country. That makes up a five-member FERC. I can tell you, as they have said and as I have said, five heads—good heads—are better than one. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting both Lindsay See's and Judy Chang's nominations today.

VOTE ON ROSNER NOMINATION

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

Mr. MANCHIN. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Booker	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Cantwell	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Lummis	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Cramer	Moran	Welch
Crapo	Mullin	Whitehouse
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	Young
Fetterman	Ossoff	
Fischer	Padilla	

NAYS—27

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sanders
Braun	Kaine	Schmitt
Britt	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Markey	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Vance
Hagerty	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—6

Butler	Menendez	Sullivan
Graham	Sinema	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, on rollcall vote 192, I voted yea. It was my intention to vote nay. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote, because it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask consent to speak for 3 minutes.

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

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning sick to my stomach and profoundly disturbed