

I come to the floor today as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We have recommended to the Senate in a very strong bipartisan vote the support of Dorothy Shea to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

We need a full team in place to fight for the interests of the United States and our allies at the United Nations; to counter adversaries like China and Russia; to work with our allies to respond to conflicts, from Ukraine to Sudan; to ensure that the United States is at the table for conversations on the role of technology and AI; and to stand up against anti-Semitism on the global stage. Yet our mission to the United Nations has been without a Senate-confirmed Deputy for nearly 2 years.

This post is not only crucial to managing the safety and security of U.S. and foreign personnel during U.N. meetings of heads of State in New York in September, the Deputy plays a key role in the policy planning process.

At a time when strong U.S. leadership at the U.N. is so important, we need someone in this post who has experience tackling the complexities of the United Nations General Assembly; someone who will make sure the U.N. is positioned to take on the challenges of the future, including reforms; someone who will multiply our engagement in the Security Council and General Assembly, working alongside Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield; someone who is not afraid to stand up for American values. That is why, as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I fully support Dorothy Shea's confirmation to this post.

Ambassador Shea has decades of experience working in the Foreign Service, at the State Department, and with the National Security Council. She is a career senior Foreign Service officer who has proudly served both Democratic and Republican administrations for 32 years, including working for colleagues across the aisle on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While she was our chief diplomat in Lebanon, Ambassador Shea was awarded the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for sustained extraordinary accomplishment. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her deep commitment and ability to advance U.S. interests.

At a time of war and escalating humanitarian crises worldwide, we can count on Ambassador Shea to represent U.S. interests at the United Nations. From advancing the peace process in the Middle East and Sudan, to revitalizing the global humanitarian system, to implementing institutional reforms at the United Nations, she will work to find solutions to our global challenges.

I strongly urge support for her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support the cloture on her nomination so that we can get a confirmed Deputy Rep-

resentative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. SAPORITO, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Joseph Saporito to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, PA, Judge Saporito received his B.A. from Villanova University and his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law. He then entered private practice in Pittston, where he represented clients in a wide variety of matters, including criminal defense, civil litigation, and commercial transactions. He tried more than 60 cases to verdict in which he was either sole counsel or chief counsel. In addition, he served as a part-time assistant public defender in the Luzerne County Office of the Public Defender and as a part-time law clerk in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Since 2015, Judge Saporito has served as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. He has served as the chief magistrate judge since February 2024. During his time on the bench, he has handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters at various stages of litigation, and he has presided over 16 civil trials, including 14 jury trials.

Judge Saporito has deep ties to the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the district court.

Judge Saporito's extensive litigation background and his courtroom experience as both an advocate and magistrate judge ensure that he will continue to be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support his nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON SAPORITO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Saporito 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—8

Fetterman	Menendez	Vance
Hoeven	Romney	Warner
Kelly	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Laphonza R. Butler, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-

Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 228 Ex.]

#### YEAS—54

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Budd	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Markey	Sullivan
Casey	McConnell	Tester
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Coons	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young

#### NAYS—36

Barrasso	Daines	Marshall
Blackburn	Ernst	Moran
Boozman	Fischer	Mullin
Braun	Grassley	Paul
Britt	Hagerty	Ricketts
Capito	Hawley	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cornyn	Johnson	Schmitt
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Menendez	Vance
Fetterman	Romney	Warner
Hoeven	Scott (SC)	
Manchin	Stabenow	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dorothy Camille Shea, of

North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER FUNDING

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, Vermonters are experiencing a lot of anguish now. This photograph depicts flooding that we had in Barre a year ago and is here with us again. A year to the day, we had a return of flooding. We had devastating flooding in 2023.

Parts of the Northeast Kingdom, 2 weeks later, would flood again. They were hit with 8 inches of rain—heavy rain—which caused more flash floods in the Northeast Kingdom. And today—today—6 more inches of rain is in the forecast.

I come to the Senate floor tonight, when Vermont is in crisis, and I am asking for my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, for us to come together and approve the President's supplemental disaster funding request. It will help Vermonters rebuild from heavy rains, flash flooding, and mudslides that have brutally devastated our State. It will help other communities around the Nation that have had their own weather events that have done so much harm to their communities.

One year ago this month, the heavy rainfall required 214 swift boat water rescues—literally, some of our first responder folks showing up in boats to help people get out of their homes. Infrastructure was really hit hard, with 409 miles of rail, 64 State bridges, and 46 State roads closed. Madam President, 139 of our municipalities experienced flood-related damage. There was \$553 million in public assistance need reported and \$118 million for businesses on their damages. We also saw 18 drinking water and 33 wastewater systems damaged. Three wastewater systems were totally destroyed.

President Biden has revised his disaster supplemental request to account for Vermont's disaster last year. That will help us immensely, but Vermont absolutely needs the increased funding. The Department of Transportation Emergency Relief Program and the Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund all need supplemental funding, as well as more funding for the Department of Transportation CDBG disaster recovery grants. Those are flexible and really help the communities. That is needed very, very much.

And today I joined with my colleagues from Vermont, Senator SAND-

ERS and Representative BALINT, in urging congressional leadership and bipartisan Appropriations Committee leadership to advance a supplemental package quickly.

We need Federal dollars to help support our farms. Our businesses need help. Families need help. So many families, hard-working Vermonters, were hit by these floods; 18 shelters opened, and over 3,000 households were approved for FEMA housing assistance.

And this is really, really tough, Madam President. Vermont is on a long road to recovery. We are resilient, and we believe that brighter days are ahead. But for many families, this is the second time in 2 years. And how much can they really endure, especially when getting answers down the road from FEMA gets very complicated, very bureaucratic, and inflicts a lot of emotional pain that could be avoided if we could be quicker and faster.

I have promised Vermonters that I would bring their voices to the Senate with me and share their stories. In the past month, I have been to Montpelier, Hardwick, Barnet, St. Johnsbury, Peacham, and Lyndonville to visit with homeowners, businesses, farms, and communities impacted by the flooding.

Hardwick lost four bridges in flooding this month. Three of those bridges were wiped out last year—the second time in 2 years. And these are small communities where folks on the select board are also the emergency responders; they are also the health officer. And they are incredible, what they do. The Presiding Officer knows this from her own service as Senator and as Governor. It is amazing how resilient they are. But they can't do it alone. They need our help.

I met with a Vermont farmer in Hardwick, somebody who started years ago what has become a very successful enterprise but also a farm-to-table, farm-to-farmstand business model in Vermont. He lost topsoil, and many of his crops were destroyed. A restaurant owner in Lyndonville had to make the tough decision to close instead of reopening. And Lyndonville was hit again in the middle of the night just 2 days ago.

Healthcare leaders in the area are also very worried about mental health and the stress on families. Every time they see a homeowner—parents—where their homes have been wiped out, the overriding concern they have is for the well-being of their kids and the stability that they need to restore to their kids. And when that happens 2 years in a row, that is asking a lot.

In Peacham, I talked with two families whose homes were so damaged that there is no reasonable prospect that they will be repaired. They can only hope for the home to be bought out. But, again, that takes response that we are not getting, oftentimes, down the road with the bureaucracy, unfortunately, that we have to, I think, fix.

In Barnet, I met farmers who were trying to salvage what they could and