

Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 781.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 781, Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 9, be waived.

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

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

#### NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I, like many of my colleagues, spent a lot of time in our home States during the

month of August and early September, and I am ready to come back and go to work. I am pleased to report that I had a number of conversations about things that we are doing and not doing with the citizens of the State of Kansas.

I traveled from east to west and north to south, from Elwood in the northeast corner to Sedan in southeast Kansas, to St. Francis and Sharon Springs in the far western part of our State, southwest corner, to Liberal, KS.

And I rise today to speak on behalf of many Kansans on a couple of topics. I would tell my colleagues: Many of my constituents are angry and afraid of potentially losing their homes, farms, and businesses, and their land as a result of the Department of Energy's proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor.

During August, Kansans from across the State—but particularly those who are in line for this corridor—raised their concerns with me about this proposal and that it would give way to a large-scale Federal Government intervention in rural America, in rural Kansas.

One woman in Downs, KS, shared how her home sits within the proposed corridor, and she is fearful of how the proposed transmission line would impact her family.

By designating this corridor, the Department of Energy opens up the door for potential officials from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to steamroll State regulators by overriding their decisions on whether or not to site electric transmission lines.

The Federal Government should not be in the business of condemning land for eminent domain, especially for a transmission project that was rejected by a State regulator.

Kansans know these decisions should not be made by folks in Washington, DC, who live hundreds and hundreds of miles away.

That is why I am introducing legislation with Congressman TRACEY MANN, my successor in the First District of Kansas, to prevent the Federal Government from possessing landowner's property without their consent for these transmission projects.

In addition to this legislation, I have also been engaged with the Department of Energy, who has assured me they will continue to accept comments and take them into consideration through the next phase of this proposal.

After an unacceptably short comment period, it is critical the Department of Energy fully understands the objections my constituents have with this proposal.

Protecting the Kansas way of life involves standing up for our smallest towns and for family farms, many of which have been passed down generation to generation.

As these proposals move forward, I will continue to work to defend Kansas agriculture, small businesses, and the rights of property owners across our State from Federal overreach.

We must—we must—make certain that the Federal taxpayer dollars are not used for eminent domain and that decisions about electrical transition siting be left in Kansas, not in Washington, DC.

#### FARM TO FLY ACT

Madam President, I also had the opportunity to see developments in our State regarding sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF. SAF has a threefold benefit: It provides a cleaner energy supply for the aviation industry, it diversifies and bolsters our American energy industry, and it provides farmers with new markets to sell their crops or the byproducts of their crops.

Sustainable aviation fuel is a biofuel made from products like corn, sorghum, and soybeans that can be used in aircraft and produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions than traditional fuels. It is a key component of decarbonizing aviation. Most airplanes flown by major airlines today are able to use SAF without any modifications to their aircraft, making SAF a great alternative to traditional jet fuel.

Southwest Airlines is making a significant investment in developing the technologies and infrastructure to produce SAF by building a plant in Kansas that will take corn stover—the stalks, leaves, and cobs leftover after harvest—and turning it into ethanol that will be used to fuel airplanes.

Widespread production of SAF will also add a new energy source to our Nation's repertoire of energy production. When it comes to energy production, I believe in an "all of the above" strategy. We need to be investing in all energy production—including wind, solar, fossil fuels, ethanol, and now SAF.

To help spur investment in SAF production, I introduced the Farm to Fly Act, which would help accelerate the production and development of SAF through existing U.S. Department of Agriculture programs.

Generating this new fuel source would not be possible without our producers. Agriculture is a critical industry but also a challenging industry. We need to make certain we are providing our farmers with every opportunity to sell their crops in a variety of markets.

To help spur on the development of SAF and other forms of sustainable aviation energy, I am launching the Senate Sustainable Aviation Caucus, with Senator BOOZMAN and Senator DUCKWORTH as cochairs.

The purpose of this caucus is simple: advance our Nation's biofuels, energy, and aviation industries in an effort to increase domestic competitiveness, promote national security, and bolster passenger safety. This caucus will work together to find ways to maximize the aviation industry's financial sustainability and increase its resiliency.

I come from a State that is known for both its aviation and its agriculture, and I love seeing the two come together in this circumstance. I encourage my colleagues to join our efforts in seeking innovative solutions to

create a sustainable aviation industry and increase our Nation's competitiveness in the domestic production of sustainable aviation fuel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### NOMINATION OF ADAM B. ABELSON

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Adam Abelson to be elevated to become a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland. I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend this nominee to President Biden.

Judge Abelson, who lives in Baltimore and now serves as a U.S. magistrate judge in our Baltimore courthouse, has been nominated to fill the current vacancy that occurred due to former Chief Judge James Bedar recently taking senior status.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse applicant pool. Our committee interviewed numerous applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

I want to tell you that this was an extremely competitive process. We had a very, very large number of well-qualified people who sought to serve as judge in our district court. Judge Abelson rose to the top, and we are very proud to make that recommendation.

Judge Abelson has been a U.S. magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland since September of 2023. Prior to his judicial service, Judge Abelson worked in private practice at Zuckerman Spaeder from 2012 to 2023, rising from associate to partner. He served as a law clerk for both Judge Andre Davis on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as Judge Catherine Blake on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Judge Abelson received his J.D., magna cum laude, from the New York University School of Law and his B.A. from Princeton University. Before law school, Judge Abelson served in Santiago, Chile, as a research fellow for the Human Rights Watch.

In private practice, he has represented clients in complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and government investigations. He maintained an active pro bono practice and was deeply involved in the community and legal profession.

He served as chair of the American Bar Association's Working Group on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System, in which he worked to develop the ABA's "Ten Guidelines on Court Fines and Fees." He coordinated its development of the ABA's "Principles on Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera Policies." He served on the board of the Job Opportunities Task

Force, including serving as the vice chair, and served as a board member and officer of the Maryland chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

I think you can see that Judge Abelson has been deeply involved in the legal community and in our community in order to be able to properly serve as a magistrate judge.

In September of 2023, Judge Abelson was appointed by the bench to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Maryland, where he now sits in Baltimore. As a sitting Federal magistrate judge, Judge Abelson presides over preliminary criminal proceedings, including initial appearances, detention hearings, and arraignments. He handles Federal misdemeanor offenses and reviews applications for search and arrest warrants, pen registers, and trap and trace devices.

On the civil side, he presides over civil proceedings by consent of the parties, conducts settlement conferences in civil lawsuits, and decides discovery disputes and nondispositive motions.

If confirmed as a district judge, he would continue to serve in the same court where he now sits as a magistrate judge and where he has practiced for many years as a private law firm attorney.

I think you can see he is extremely well qualified for this position. He has the experience and he has the background to serve as a U.S. district court judge for Maryland.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Abelson to President Biden, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident that Judge Abelson will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich."

Judge Abelson will serve the people of Maryland well if confirmed for this lifetime appointment. He has strong legal and judicial qualifications and demonstrates a track record of public service.

Let me just say that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave Judge Abelson a rating, unanimously, of "well qualified," which, as you all know, is the highest possible rating. And the Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Abelson with a bipartisan vote in July of this year.

I know that public service is a family affair and sacrifice. I particularly want to thank Judge Abelson's family for agreeing to share him with the people of Maryland in the interest of public service.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to confirm his nomination so he can continue to serve the public as a district court judge.

With that, I see my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN is on the floor. Let me just comment that it has been a

real pleasure for me to work with Senator VAN HOLLEN as we have gone through the process of filling our judicial nominations in Maryland. And he has been an extremely valuable Member in recruiting and making sure we only recommend the very best to the Senate for confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, let me start by thanking my friend and the senior Senator from the great State of Maryland for putting together a process that does ensure that we recommend the very best to our colleagues. I join him in expressing my strong support for the confirmation of Adam Abelson of Maryland to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the District of Maryland. I was honored to recommend his confirmation to the Senate Judiciary Committee, along with Senator CARDIN, and very pleased to see the Senate Judiciary Committee support that nomination.

Judge Abelson's nomination was put forward by President Biden after Chief Judge James Bedar announced his decision to take senior status in May. Chief Judge Bedar served Marylanders on the district court with distinction for over 14 years, and I want to thank him for his excellent public service and unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Judge Bedar left the Maryland District Court in the very capable hands of now-Chief Judge Russell, and we wish him all the best as he continues his leadership.

For Judge Abelson, this moment is the next step in a remarkable career shaped by dedication to his community, upholding equal justice under the law, and making a positive impact on the world. His experience is both wide and deep.

While in law school, he traveled abroad to promote human rights as a research fellow for Human Rights Watch, where he advocated for victims of the Pinochet regime in Chile and promoted freedom of the press in Argentina and Venezuela. As a fellow at the Department of Justice, he helped to prosecute the perpetrators of genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda.

He then clerked for Judge Andre Davis on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and for Judge Catherine Blake on the District Court for the District of Maryland—two judges known and respected for their stellar and distinguished service.

Following his clerkships, as Senator CARDIN indicated, he was in private practice. He was at the firm of Zuckerman Spaeder, where he rose to the rank of partner and became what some call a legal omnivore, meaning he covered a vast array of territory in the legal realm—working with plaintiffs and defendants in class actions, white-collar criminal cases, investigations—in every step of the trial process. He covered a range of topics, including