

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sooknanan earned her B.S. from Saint Francis College in 2002, her M.B.A. from Hofstra University in 2003, and a J.D., summa cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School in 2010.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Sooknanan served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric N. Vitaliano on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York between 2010 and 2011 and for the Honorable Guido Calabresi on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 2011 to 2012. Following her clerkships, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice through its honors program as an appellate attorney in the civil division. Ms. Sooknanan then served as a law clerk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Supreme Court from 2013 to 2014.

Following the completion of her Supreme Court clerkship, Ms. Sooknanan joined Jones Day in Washington, DC, as an associate between 2014 and 2019 and, later partner from 2020 to 2021. She spent more than 6 years at the firm representing clients in complex, multifaceted Federal district court and appellate litigation.

In 2021, Ms. Sooknanan rejoined the Department of Justice as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the Associate Attorney General's Office. In the fall of 2023, she moved to the civil rights division to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, the second highest leadership position in the division.

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

Ms. Sooknanan's experience clerking at all levels of the Federal judiciary, as well as her work in private practice and public service, have prepared her to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON SOOKNANAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sooknanan nomination?

Mr. PAUL. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 306 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema	Vance
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF CATHERINE HENRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Catherine Henry to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Henry received her B.A. from Drew University and her J.D. from the District of Columbia School of Law. After law school, she worked as a staff attorney at the Feminist Majority Foundation before serving as an assistant defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. From 1996 to 2001, she represented clients at every stage of the State criminal process as she handled cases in the major trial and felony waiver trial divisions. She also represented juvenile defendants in delinquency proceedings.

Since 2001, Ms. Henry has worked in the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. As an assistant Federal defender in the trial division, she gained

extensive jury trial and sentencing litigation experience on a wide variety of cases. In 2008, Henry was promoted to the position of senior litigator. She maintains a full caseload of Federal criminal matters and advises assistant Federal defenders in all aspects of litigation. Over the course of her career, Ms. Henry has tried hundreds of cases to verdict in State court and 35 Federal cases to verdict or final decision. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Henry has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School since 2009, and she previously taught students at Temple University Beasley School of Law.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Henry as "well qualified" to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators—Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN—as well as a broad range of individuals, including Federal public defenders, former Federal prosecutors, and former and retired district judges.

Ms. Henry's litigation background and extensive experience in Federal court ensure that she will be a valuable addition to the Federal bench. I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me in my support.

VOTE ON HENRY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Henry nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. 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 Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Cassidy	Daines
Blackburn	Collins	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Graham
Britt	Cramer	Grassley
Budd	Crapo	Hagerty
Capito	Cruz	Hawley

Hoeven	Moran	Schmitt
Hyde-Smith	Mullin	Scott (FL)
Johnson	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
Kennedy	Paul	Sullivan
Lankford	Ricketts	Thune
Lee	Risch	Tillis
Lummis	Romney	Tuberville
Marshall	Rounds	Wicker
McConnell	Rubio	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Texas.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week, I spoke about a few of President Trump's excellent choices to lead his foreign policy agenda. Today, I would like to highlight a few of the impressive individuals he has tapped to lead his agenda for American energy abundance at the Energy Department, the EPA, and Interior.

It is no secret that Texas is an energy-producing State. The 30 million people I represent have been suffering from high gas prices, along with inflation and higher utility bills, under President Biden these last 4 years. From day one of his Presidency, President Biden made clear that he was taking his cues not from people like my constituents, who had to pay these higher prices, but from radical activists looking to further their leftwing climate agenda. He started by canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would have created jobs and helped keep gas prices affordable.

While Texans, along with other Americans, were suffering from historically high inflation, President Biden responded to their pleas by signing into law a so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which I like to point out did nothing to reduce inflation. Well, the Inflation Reduction Act, in fact, added more burdensome regulations and wasteful spending, while President Biden himself admitted that the law has "less to do with inflation."

Adding insult to injury, the EPA put into place a tailpipe rule that creates emissions standards so stringent they practically force consumers to choose an electric vehicle rather than a gas-powered car. Of course, that was part of the goal. No one I know of wants to be told by the government what kind of car they have to buy, but consider, as well, that Texans are already having trouble keeping up with their bills due to high inflation. Does President Biden really think forcing them to buy an expensive electric vehicle or forcing hard-working people who can't afford an electric vehicle, even with the subsidy, to subsidize wealthier Americans so that they could do so is helpful? It makes no sense whatsoever.

Finally, by significantly limiting America's LNG exports, liquefied natural gas, many of which leave the

country and travel to our allies by way of Texas ports, President Biden gave a gift to Vladimir Putin and forced our European allies to rely more heavily on Russia and Saudi Arabia for their energy needs.

It should be no surprise to the Biden administration that Texans voted against a President who prioritized keeping radical climate activists happy at the expense of average Americans.

But with President Trump at the helm, I have no doubt that Texans will be able to breathe a sigh of relief when it comes to their energy needs. Chris Wright, whom the President has tapped to lead his Department of Energy, will bring a wealth of experience in the oil and gas sector, and he has been an outspoken advocate for economic growth and American entrepreneurship.

I also look forward to working with former Congressman Lee Zeldin, whom the President has chosen to be the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

And then there is the former Governor of North Dakota, Doug Burgum, an outstanding choice to lead the Department of the Interior. He will bring a fresh perspective to Washington from his excellent track record as Governor.

I look forward to working with each of these Cabinet nominees, and I hope they will embrace the all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes all forms of energy, something that Texas has always championed.

Texas-based companies are making serious strides in energy innovation. Every day, they are finding new ways to make our most prevalent and affordable energy sources cleaner. But, to that end, there is a lot of work that needs to be done to reverse the damage caused by the current administration.

First off, the President's pause on LNG exports must be lifted. As many Texans know, LNG is one of the cleanest sources of energy on the planet. If activists are serious about working in good faith to lower CO₂ emissions, they should be pushing for more—not less—LNG that, produced here in the United States, could be provided to our friends and allies around the world.

When our European allies and others can't access American LNG, they have to turn elsewhere to ensure that they can keep the lights on. Alternative countries like Russia and Saudi Arabia don't have nearly the same environmental standards as we have here. The last thing the United States should do is to cause our allies to rely more on Vladimir Putin and Russia for their energy needs, but that is the consequence of President Biden's policies.

I spoke yesterday on how China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea are working in concert to undermine American interests around the world in a very dangerous situation. It is not an overstatement to say that President Biden's ban on LNG exports directly advances the interests of this axis of authoritarians. That is dangerous.

It is clear that we need to be producing more domestic energy of all

kinds to support not only our domestic needs but our friends and allies around the world, and President Trump has made a great choice to help advance that effort.

Over at the Department of the Interior, I hope that Governor Burgum will get to work quickly to reform and streamline the permitting process for energy activities on Federal lands. This is one of the most serious self-inflicted wounds that the U.S. Government has inflicted on itself by restricting access to streamlining permitting.

Another pressing issue for the incoming administration is that NEPA is in desperate need of reform. These are the environmental review programs.

Under the Biden administration's unwieldy handling of this process, costs and timelines have been unpredictable, making it nearly impossible to tap the vast natural resources our Nation is so abundantly blessed with.

My Republican colleagues and I stand ready to work all of these nominees to reverse the harmful policies of the current administration, like the tailpipe rule, turbocharge America's energy sector, and pass commonsense permitting reform.

I look forward to working with President Trump's team, and I am confident that together we can put the full forces of the Texas energy sector back on display and once again unleash affordable, reliable, and secure energy right here in America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, my friends and colleagues, today I rise with a full heart and an overwhelming sense of gratitude. It has been the honor of my life to represent my great State of West Virginia and this great country of ours.

Fourteen years ago, I walked in this building not knowing what to expect. I had just left the best public service job of my life as the Governor of my great State of West Virginia. Everything I knew about the Senate I had heard and learned from Robert C. Byrd. Though I was stepping into his seat, I knew I could never, ever fill his shoes. But I truly believed that I could continue to bring our commonsense West Virginia values to Washington and do even more for our great State and our country. I really believed that in my heart.

Throughout my life as a public servant, I had seen the power of good people coming together to solve tough problems. Sometimes we thought it was impossible, but we did it.

Now as my time here comes to an end, I want you to know my belief in the potential of this institution and each and every one of you that represent it remains as strong as ever. I have said this, I believe in you probably more than you believe in yourself at times.

You don't come into politics looking for fame or fortune—or at least you shouldn't. You come in because you believe you can make a difference in