

I hope that each of us as individual Senators, and all of us collectively as the U.S. Senate, will strive to uphold the values reflected in this tiny yet powerful symbol, principles that have made Utah strong and America extraordinary.

Mr. President, with lessons learned from the principles found in important locations and sacred sites, let us commit to the values that unite us as a nation. To my colleagues and friends, I hope you see these principles not just in historic places but in the spaces you walk and work every day.

Together, we can pursue a vision for America that continues to be as bold and audacious as our beginning while delivering dignity, freedom, and opportunity for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is an honor to serve with my friend JOHN CURTIS. Sharon and I love John and his wife Sue. I have known them for a long time, and he is a dear friend.

As you can tell, anyone who knows him loves him. Anyone who doesn't know him, from watching his speech, can tell that he is a man of great intellect, great conviction, and also he is a really likable person. I feel so fortunate to work with him.

Welcome to the Senate, and congratulations on absolutely a fantastic maiden speech. I am relieved you decided not to try to break CORY BOOKER's record today. We will save that one for another day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Tennessee.

(The remarks of Mrs. BLACKBURN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1748 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, not since President Ford has any President been denied at least some of his nominees unanimous consent for confirmation at this point in their Presidency. That is why I come to the floor today to advocate for one nominee who is sorely needed—her name is Jessica Kramer—to be Assistant Administrator in the Office of Water at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Jess, as we all know her given her time working on the EPW Committee, is solid and as sharp as they come. She previously served as an environmental prosecutor and defense attorney for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, as a government affairs specialist for drinking water and wastewater associations, and as deputy secretary for regulatory programs at Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. She also served in the EPA's Office of Water in the first Trump administration. Her impeccable qualifications are part of

the reason she received a strong bipartisan vote out of the EPW Committee, a 15-to-4 vote, including by Ranking Member SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. Her background check has been available for a week.

There is no reason her nomination should be delayed any longer. President Trump deserves to have his qualified people at his side, and the American people deserve to have their votes mean something.

Therefore, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 89, Jessica Kramer to be an Assistant Administrator of the EPA; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, it is my understanding that there is a pretty longstanding tradition at the EPW that we get the background check before someone comes to the vote, as my distinguished friend from Wyoming has said.

I actually voted for this nominee, and I have every confidence that she will do a good job, but I don't believe that the background check is available. If I am mistaken about that, then we can review this some other time. But as far as I know, we do not have this nominee's background check. That is a matter that I think needs to be taken up with the FBI. You all run the FBI these days. If there is a delay getting this background check completed, that delay should be addressed at the FBI, where the delay has been caused, rather than breaking a committee precedent.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, it is my understanding that her background check is available and has been available for a week. I would ask the Senator from Rhode Island to check with the EPW Committee, where her background check should be available.

One way Americans lose trust in government is when their expectations for that government, as expressed through their votes, are not met. You know, we often talk about how elections have consequences.

I will say that I supported many of President Biden's nominees despite disagreeing with them vehemently. Unfortunately, my friends across the aisle are abusing our constitutional role of advice and consent in unfairly denying the American people the change they just voted for last November.

There is plenty of divisiveness in our Nation right now, but rallying behind someone as qualified and supported by so many Republican and Democratic Senators as Jessica Kramer should be something this body could do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ERIC MATTHEW UELAND

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to Eric Ueland's nomination to be Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget.

Congress charged the Deputy Director for Management with improving the performance, integrity, accountability, and transparency of the whole of government. This role is responsible for managing the personnel who work for the government, what the Federal Government purchases, and how the Federal Government manages its money.

Given his record and views, I have serious concerns about how Eric Ueland will carry out these responsibilities.

First, I am concerned by his willingness to break the law, especially when it comes to Congress's power of the purse. He supports the administration's efforts to illegally withhold funding that Congress has passed into law.

Mr. Ueland currently serves as the Acting Chief of Staff at the Office of Management and Budget, and he has helped freeze Federal funds and grants and loans across the government—illegal actions that shut off resources for police departments, hospitals, and workforce development agencies.

Like all of my colleagues in Congress, I swore an oath to uphold and follow the law set forth in our Constitution, which affirms that Congress—and Congress alone—is responsible for deciding how Federal funds are spent, not the President or members of his administration.

Eric Ueland has also been a staunch supporter of recklessly and indiscriminately shutting down Agencies and laying off employees, with no regard for how these actions might harm the government's ability to protect our national security or provide vital services to the American people. He refused to commit to even analyzing the impact that mass firings have had on the effectiveness of the Federal workforce, let alone acknowledging the harm government services will experience as a result of these actions.

Finally, Eric Ueland has made it clear that he will ignore conflicts of interest in the government's policy and contracting decisions, letting those in charge of government use it as a tool to enrich themselves.

As Elon Musk is pushing Agencies to purchase services that his own companies provide and shutting down Agencies that are investigating his companies, Eric Ueland told me that he was unable to see any conflicts of interest raised by Elon Musk's influence on government decisions.

Government should make decisions in the interests of the people and not in the interests of conflicted billionaire donors to the President like Elon Musk.

If Eric Ueland is confirmed, I am concerned that he will defy our duly passed laws and our Constitution to continue President Trump and Elon Musk's assault on the Federal Government. Because of this, I oppose Eric Ueland's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote start immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON MICHAEL NOMINATION

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

Mr. PETERS. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

#### YEAS—54

Banks	Gallego	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Paul
Budd	Husted	Ricketts
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cassidy	Johnson	Rounds
Collins	Justice	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	King	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shueh
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

#### NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Padilla
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Sanders
Booker	Kim	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schiff
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Markey	Shaheen
Duckworth	Merkley	Slotkin
Durbin	Murphy	Smith
Fetterman	Murray	
Hassan	Ossoff	

Van Hollen	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	Graham	Tuberville
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will immediately be notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Ueland nomination be waived.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 82, Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, James Lankford, Katie Boyd Britt, John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Bill Hagerty, Chuck Grassley.

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 Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

Banks	Boozman	Capito
Barrasso	Britt	Cassidy
Blackburn	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Cotton	Johnson	Paul
Cramer	Justice	Ricketts
Crapo	Kennedy	Risch
Cruz	Lankford	Rounds
Curtis	Lee	Schmitt
Daines	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Ernst	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Fischer	McConnell	Shueh
Grassley	McCormick	Sullivan
Hagerty	Moody	Thune
Hawley	Moran	Tillis
Hoeven	Moreno	Wicker
Husted	Mullin	Young

#### NAYS—45

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Slotkin
Duckworth	Markey	Smith
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murphy	Warner
Gallego	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—4

Alsobrooks	Graham
Coons	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Ohio.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1771

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1771, which is at the desk; further, I ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. I am going to object, but I think the Senator has some remarks.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MURPHY. I will let the Senator explain the reasons for the motion he is making, and afterward, I will comment on the reasons for my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. It is now indisputable that the last 4 years saw more injuries and more deaths of law enforcement officers than at any time in American history. Let me just read to you some of the data.

From 2021 to 2023, more officers were feloniously killed than in any other consecutive 3-year period of time over