

Ernst	Kim	Rosen
Fischer	King	Rounds
Gallego	Klobuchar	Schmitt
Gillibrand	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Graham	Lee	Scott (SC)
Grassley	Lummis	Shaheen
Hagerty	Marshall	Sheehy
Hassan	McConnell	Slotkin
Hawley	McCormick	Sullivan
Hickenlooper	Moody	Thune
Hoeven	Moran	Tillis
Husted	Moreno	Tuberville
Hyde-Smith	Mullin	Warner
Johnson	Murkowski	Welch
Justice	Paul	Whitehouse
Kaine	Peters	Wicker
Kelly	Ricketts	Young
Kennedy	Risch	

NAYS—25

Baldwin	Markey	Schiff
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Smith
Cantwell	Murray	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hirono	Sanders	
Lujan	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—1

Fetterman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Ratcliffe nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

NOMINATION OF PETER HEGSETH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there was one word—one word—that should never, ever describe a Secretary of Defense, it is “erratic,” but that is the one word that describes Mr. Hegseth best. Advancing a Secretary of Defense is one of the most important votes Senators are going to take all year. This man has lives in his hands—the lives of citizens, the lives of people of the world, and the lives of the brave men and women in our Armed Forces.

So I want my colleagues to think carefully. Of all of the people we could have as Secretary of Defense, is Pete Hegseth really the best one we have got? Come on. You know he isn't. You know he is not even close.

Is this the best man we have to lead the greatest military in the world? Is this man with a known history of excessive drinking the guy you want at the other end of the phone at 2 a.m., in a crisis, in control of the nuclear codes? Who are we kidding? Who are we kidding?

Is this the man—with a mile-long list of allegations of abusing, degrading, and harassing women—you want to be leading our men and women in battle?

Is this the man, with a track record of erratic behavior, the best you think the members of our military deserve as a leader?

Is this the man, with a truly horrific and devastating lack of judgment, the best you think our country and our fighting men and women deserve?

Pete Hegseth has proven to lack the necessary morality, sense, judgment. So I plead—I plead—with some of my Republican colleagues just to answer me this: Do you think this is the best person for the job? Do you think this is the best person we have to lead the best military in the world?

I yield the floor.

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. 3, Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Pete Ricketts, Katie Britt, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Eric Schmitt.

QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair now directs the clerk to call the roll and ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names.

[Quorum No. 2]

Alsobrooks	Justice	Rounds
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Barrasso	Kennedy	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Lummis	Shaheen
Collins	Marshall	Sheehy
Cotton	McCormick	Slotkin
Crapo	Moody	Sullivan
Cruz	Moran	Thune
Curtis	Moreno	Tillis
Daines	Mullin	Tuberville
Fischer	Murkowski	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Welch
Hawley	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wicker
Husted	Ricketts	Wyden
Hyde-Smith	Risch	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

VOTE ON CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be the Secretary of Defense, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 14 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—49

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 49.

The motion is passed.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NOMINATION OF PETER HEGSETH

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of my constituent and friend Pete Hegseth.

Last week, during his 4½ hour confirmation hearing, America saw exactly why President Trump nominated Pete Hegseth to be our next Secretary of Defense. Pete is patriotic, smart. He is an energetic leader. His priorities are our warfighters and having their backs by focusing the Department of Defense on lethality and competence rather than extraneous political and social issues. He is the type of leader that can inspire, recruit, and retain the absolute best talent America has to offer.

Despite Pete's qualifications, the mainstream media, desperate to derail President Trump and his nominees, has gone after Pete's character by airing false and unsubstantiated claims. Take, for example, the article published Tuesday, just this week, by the New York Times. Despite the salacious and misleading headline in this paper, buried beneath 13 paragraphs of slanderous allegations, the Times actually disclaims the entire story with a direct quote from the supposed victim herself

denying the allegations against Pete, saying:

There was no physical abuse in my marriage.

Yet, look at this headline—“Hegseth’s Ex-in-Law Claims He Was Abusive to Second Wife”—even though, in the same article, the second wife disclaims all of this. This isn’t journalism. Take a moment to think about this. This is a hit job. The New York Times intentionally ran with the salacious and debunked account, buried the truth, and distorted the lead simply to undermine President Trump and his nominee.

The New York Times is not alone, unfortunately; NBC News, The Hill, Politico, and even the Associated Press all chose to run the same salacious false headline instead of the facts.

Unfortunately, I am not surprised. This is the type of misleading—and often unequivocally false—reporting that we have learned to expect from the left-leaning media.

The American people remember that the New York Times is the same publication that denied and suppressed the Hunter Biden laptop story leading up to the 2020 election. It is the same paper that endorsed Joe Biden in 2020. The same paper that endorsed Kamala Harris in 2024.

The American people are sick and tired of the deception stemming from this alliance between the Democrat Party and the so-called mainstream media. This is yet another example of a story published with an aim to do harm and despite evidence to the contrary. It is why media has lost much of its credibility with the American people who see this article for what it is, a desperate, last-minute attempt to generate controversy where none exists.

Pete Hegseth is someone who is going to fix the Pentagon and deliver on President Trump’s vision of peace through strength. He is exactly the type of leader that the Pentagon needs in the face of an increasingly complex and escalating security situation that is occurring around the world.

So while I am disappointed, I am not surprised at this 11th hour attempt by the media to raise debunked and completely discredited falsehoods simply with an aim to derail a confirmation.

I urge my colleagues to see through this noise, evaluate Pete’s nomination based on the merits, which is why I plan to vote for Mr. Hegseth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I want to reiterate what my colleague from Tennessee just talked about, the importance of the vote that we just took just a few minutes ago—our nominee for new Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth.

Now, the procedure is—as we just voted—to close the vote, and now we wait 30 hours from just a few minutes ago and have the final vote on his nomination, which it looks like that he has

the votes of the majority to be appointed or sent to the White House to be confirmed as the next Secretary of Defense.

I am on the Armed Services Committee, and I have watched 4 years of the destruction of the best military in our world—the United States of America.

It is a shame what has happened. The DEI, the woke agenda that is being pushed on the troops in our country, to me, is embarrassing. I am a military brat. My dad died on active duty in the military. Awarded five Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart at age 17, driving a tank across Europe after landing the first day of Normandy.

We have to change course in our military. And we can talk about inflation and pumping gas and the crime and all the things that we are having a lot of problems with, but if you don’t have a strong military to protect our borders and protect the citizens in our country from adversaries all over the world, we have problems. And it has to start there.

Pete Hegseth is the choice, the right choice. I like his age; I like his demeanor; I like the things he brings to our military. He is exciting, and he will energize this military into the next decade. And I am excited about that.

So, hopefully, in about 30 hours, we will vote tomorrow night around 9:00, and we will vote to confirm Pete Hegseth as our new Secretary of Defense.

FOREIGN ADVERSARY RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

Now, I would like to turn to national security threats in our Nation’s agriculture sector and food supply chains. I am on the Ag Committee. Over the past few years, the United States has experienced a rapid increase in foreign investment in the agricultural sector, particularly from China.

We have to open our eyes; bad things are happening around us. Growing foreign investment in agriculture and other essential industries, like healthcare and energy, is a direct threat to our country’s national security.

You know, for years now, I have been sounding the alarm about foreign ownership of American farmland and other elements of our food supply chain.

According to the USDA data, from December 2023, foreign investors own approximately 45 million acres of U.S. agricultural land. Now, let me say that again, 45 million acres of our forest and agricultural land in this country has been sold to foreign entities.

Does that not scare us? What did we just see during COVID about our drug supply? We looked around, we looked for healthcare and help after COVID hit our borders, and what happened? We found out that it was all being made in China.

So 45 million acres, this represents over 1.5 million acres in one calendar year. Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land increased modestly from 2012 to 2017 at an average increase of 0.6

million acres per year. That is 2012 to 2017.

But since 2017, the number has skyrocketed to an average of 2.6 million acres a year that we are selling our farmland to our adversaries. And this is just not China; it is Russia, it is other entities that don’t wish us well at the end of the day.

So, additionally, between 2010 and 2021, entities or individuals from China increased their ownership of U.S. agricultural land more than twentyfold, from about 14,000 acres to 400,000 acres. This is an unbelievable and unsustainable pace for the United States of America.

Now, Alabama is experiencing—my State—this firsthand. We have the fourth largest amount of foreign-owned agricultural land in the United States at 2.2 million acres, most of which is forestland. It is not really agricultural in terms of growing row crops, it is basically our forest.

I represent over 62,000 farmers in the State of Alabama. I hear from them time and time again about foreign activities in our agricultural communities.

Threats like these are something our States can’t handle all on their own, which is why President Ford established—President Ford—established the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States, also known in short terms as CFIUS. This was in 1975, and this committee was supposed to keep an eye on foreign investments in our country.

This is the governmental body that oversees the vetting process of foreign investments and acquisition of American companies in the interest of national security.

CFIUS is composed of nine members of the President’s Cabinet, including Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Energy. The Attorney General, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy also sit on this vetting board of industry and land in our country.

Nowhere on that list did you hear me say the Secretary of Agriculture. Now, why is that? Considering the massive increase in foreign investment in our country, we need additional oversight for what is going on in our country. We have our eyes closed.

Which is why, yesterday, I introduced the Foreign Adversary Risk Management Act, called the FARM Act, here on the floor that will accomplish three major things. First, it would add the Secretary of Agriculture as a permanent member of CFIUS; in other words, somebody that is going to help our agriculture people vet land that is being bought by foreign entities; second, it would protect the U.S. agriculture industry from foreign control through transactions, mergers and acquisitions and agreements, or it would also designate agricultural supply chains as critical infrastructures