

The assistant bill 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. 120, John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, David McCormick, Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Mike Crapo, John R. Curtis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Bill Hagerty, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 111.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. 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 assistant bill 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. 111, Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee, Jon A. Husted, Josh Hawley, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Markwayne Mullin, James Lankford, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Katie Boyd Britt, Lindsey Graham, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that at 11:45 on Wednesday, June 4, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 119, Michelle Bowman, and if cloture is invoked, all

postcloture time be expired at 6 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Bowman nomination; further, following the cloture vote on the Bowman nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 129, Edward Walsh, and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Walsh nomination following disposition of the Bowman nomination; further, at 2 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 144, James O'Neill, and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired and on Thursday, June 4, the Senate vote on confirmation of the O'Neill nomination at 11:30 a.m.; finally, if any of the nominations are confirmed during Wednesday and Thursday's sessions of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOMINATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, on May 19, 2025, I provided a statement for the RECORD of my intent to object to the Senate proceeding to any of the four nominations currently pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA.

Today, I am reaffirming those four objections and stating my intent to object to the Senate proceeding to three additional EPA nominations, if and when they are added to the Senate's Executive Calendar.

I do not raise these objections lightly. I recognize the importance of Federal Agencies having qualified leadership, regardless of which party is in charge. In several cases, I have voted in favor of reporting the current administration's nominees out of committee and to confirm them on the Senate floor, notwithstanding the political and policy differences that we may have. But the Senate's constitutional role to advise and consent regarding executive branch nominations is an important check on Agency leadership's abuse and overreach and raising these objections regarding EPA nominations is my duty on behalf of people of the State of California.

I am objecting to expedited consideration of EPA nominees in response to the Trump Administration EPA's abuse of the Congressional Review Act—CRA—by submitting three waivers issued to the State of California to Congress and claiming they are "rules" under the CRA despite the Government Accountability Office's clear determination they are not.

In May, I stated that I would continue these objections unless the Trump administration's EPA withdrew the waivers it knowingly and falsely submitted as rules or the majority leader committed to not overturning the Senate Parliamentarian's determination that these waivers are not rules entitled to expedited consideration in the Senate under the CRA.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration and the Republican majority plowed ahead with an unprecedented power grab at the expense of the health of millions of children and families in California and many other States. They took advantage of EPA's abuse of the CRA to throw out the rulebook, first overriding the procedural limits in the text of the CRA itself and then by overturning the Parliamentarian's decision, all in their quest to take away California's authority under the Clean Air Act.

This is unacceptable. California has done nearly all it can do to reduce emissions from stationary sources of air pollution within its jurisdiction. Given our unique air quality challenges and the worsening impacts of climate change, it is essential for our State to reduce pollution from mobile sources such as cars and trucks if the Federal Government will not do so itself. That is why Congress has provided this waiver authority to our State for decades, and it has been used over 100 times. But now, as a result of the Trump EPA and Senate Republicans' abuse of the CRA, the people of California will be forced to breathe more toxic air pollution and suffer increasingly devastating impacts of climate change.

To hold the Agency's leadership accountable for their actions, I am reaffirming my objection to proceeding to the four nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar and expanding it to include additional nominations.

As of June 2, there are three additional Trump administration EPA nominations in the committee process, four Senate-confirmed positions for which the President has not yet made a nomination, and the inspector general position, for which the President has yet to make a nomination.

I want to make clear to my colleagues that I intend to object to the Senate proceeding to all nominations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, except for the vacancy for the EPA Inspector General, unless acceptable accommodations are reached for the State of California's to protect the health of its people.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CASTRO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize George Castro, who is retiring from the Senate after nearly 40 years on Capitol Hill—a truly incredible contribution to this institution. George first started with the Architect of the Capitol in January of 1985 and has been faithfully contributing to the Senate ever since.

Nowhere is this more true than on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where George has worked since November of 2003, almost 22 years ago. George's immense love for the work of the committee shone through in everything he did. Behind every successful committee hearing, markup, and event, there was George. He kept things running seamlessly, focusing on the details that were easy to forget, but certain to be noticed if missed. He did these things with a genuine and intentional kindness that is often in short supply, amassing a remarkable community of friends and colleagues along the way. Too cold in the hearing room? Emergency ice order for a retirement party? Incorrect name plate at a hearing? George could take care of it. He could count on his network to go out of their way to help him because he has spent a career going out of his way to help them. Staff can attest that when walking down the halls with George, he is often greeted by name from those who pass by—Senators, staff from across the Senate, the nurses from the health center, the sound engineers at the Senate Recording Studio, Capitol Police Officers—I could go on.

My staff and I were lucky enough to have George's steady hand to help show us the ropes when I took over as chair of the committee in 2023, and I know the other chairs he worked for must have felt the same. That includes eight other committee chairs in addition to myself, Republicans and Democrats: Senators Stevens, Cochran, Byrd, Inouye, Mikulski, Shelby, Leahy, and COLLINS.

In addition to his many other contributions, George has been known to regale committee staff with stories and lessons from some of the Senate's most pivotal moments in recent decades. He is also well known among his friends and colleagues for his love of travel and history and excellent taste in books, film, and the fine and performing arts. We will miss his many excellent recommendations along with his steady presence and positive attitude.

On behalf of all of the past Senate Appropriations Committee members, my colleagues, and staff who were lucky enough to work with George, I want to thank him for his immense contributions to the Appropriations Committee and the Senate. He will be greatly missed, but we wish him all the best for the adventures ahead.

TRIBUTE TO SEAN MOORE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a remarkable U.S. Sen-

ate staffer Sean Moore for his 30 years of dedicated public service in the U.S. Congress. Sean's path to public service started early in childhood. His father was a longtime staffer at the National Security Agency, and Sean always knew he wanted to follow in his footsteps and dedicate his life to serving the greater good. He wasted no time embarking on his career in public service: immediately after graduating from the University of Delaware with B.A.s in international relations and history, Sean arrived in the Senate, beginning as a legislative correspondent for then-U.S. Senator Joe Biden of Delaware on May 30, 1995.

In 1997, he joined the office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, where he worked for 17 years until her retirement in 2016. He was a trusted and invaluable adviser, rising through the ranks all the way from legislative aide to chief of staff. Sean also served as Senator Boxer's legislative director and led her foreign policy team for many years, including during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Though his humility prevents him from admitting so, he was key to some of her incredibly impactful work, including her 2008 efforts to secure visas for Vietnamese adoptees; her advocacy to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW; her work on the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005; and notably, her landmark vote against declaring war on Iraq in 2002.

After Senator Boxer's retirement in 2016, Sean came to the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where he became staff director under then-Ranking Member JEANNE SHAHEEN. Nine years later, he continues to serve in this role today, having served under three different Democratic leaders of the committee.

Sean embodies what a Senate staffer should be, mastering complex policy, grasping complicated political dynamics, giving studious attention to every detail, understanding the intricacies of the institution, and always working to advance the priorities of the committee and its membership. Sean anticipates every situation and is ready with politically astute and intellectually sound advice on how to approach any challenge.

This was never more apparent than in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and America's small businesses faced an existential threat unlike anything seen before. Under then-Senator Cardin's leadership, the committee led the effort to save small businesses by creating programs like the Paycheck Protection Program, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, and other critical relief efforts. Sean rolled up his sleeves and worked tirelessly to help create, enact, and implement multiple bipartisan relief programs. Ultimately, these programs provided over a trillion

dollars to small businesses and helped keep them and the American economy afloat. A staffer to the core, he will never accept credit or recognition for any of his work, but he was truly a key part of our country's monumental response to a once-in-a-lifetime crisis. He not only was a witness to history but played a critical role in it.

Not only is Sean an excellent adviser and staffer, but he is also an exceptional leader. He empowers his staff, draws out their strengths and abilities, and never fails to uplift their work. He believes that part of his public service is mentoring and raising the next generation of staffers, and he takes this responsibility very seriously. He has a unique ability to identify hard-working, talented staffers who rise to the occasion regardless of their years of experience or degrees. This mentality has led him to build smart and effective teams for several U.S. Senators throughout his tenure.

As with many public servants, his career is made possible by the support of his family. The Moores are a force on Capitol Hill. Sean and his wife Shane Moore met while they both worked under then-Senator Boxer. Shane is also a longtime public servant who went on to serve former U.S. House Representative Loretta Sanchez of California for nearly two decades and continues to serve in the House of Representatives today. Sean and Shane raised two children McKenna and Ryan in Bethesda, MD, and together, they have built a life dedicated to serving the American public and this institution. Together, Sean and Shane helped this body navigate some of our country's most challenging moments, including 9/11, the Iraq War, the Great Recession, and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Careers like theirs do not come without sacrifice. Thirty years of service is as much a milestone for this remarkable family as it is for Sean.

I would like to share quotes from some of my colleagues for whom Sean has worked during his career. I believe his impact on Capitol Hill is best summarized by them:

U.S. Senator Boxer (retired): "Sean is the best of the best: wise, humble, respectful and committed to serving the people. Sean was able to take the toughest issue, break it down and lay out a clear plan to solve the problem, whether it was legislation, a hearing, a letter, a press conference or a simple phone call. He always knew the staff's strengths and weaknesses and put together the right team at the right time. He was always on top of everything which is what a true leader does. I still stay in touch with Sean because I still want to hear his perspective and his ideas. Congratulations on 30 years of outstanding work."

U.S. Senator SHAHEEN: "For thirty years, Sean Moore has been serving families in Delaware, California and, through the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, every state,