

Treasury policy, and we will have established another double standard in the tax area that sends a message that if you are powerful, if you have accountants, if you have lawyers, you can basically figure out a way to not pay what you would pay if you were a firefighter or a teacher. I think that double standard is regrettable.

I continue to urge opposition to the nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent to speak for just 15 seconds.

I am going to state again, Mr. Bessent went through the most rigorous evaluation of his tax returns that anybody in America has ever faced. He passed the entire test every time. He has paid the taxes he has owed under the U.S. Government's Tax Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my brief remarks before the vote that is scheduled tonight.

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

#### NOMINATION OF SEAN DUFFY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise in support of the nomination of Sean Duffy to be Secretary of Transportation.

Last week, Congressman Duffy was reported favorably out of the Commerce Committee without a single "no" vote. All 28 members of the Commerce Committee—Republicans and Democrats—voted in favor of Congressman Duffy.

Two weeks ago, Congressman Duffy appeared before the Commerce Committee for nearly 3 hours for two rounds of questions, his family seated behind him, and he thoughtfully and ably answered the questions put forth by all of the members of the committee.

The resounding bipartisan support for his nomination demonstrates that Republicans and Democrats believe Congressman Duffy is eminently qualified to serve as the Secretary of Transportation.

Transportation is not Republican; it is not Democrat. Transportation is for all Americans, from roads to bridges to waterways to airspace. All Americans depend on the Department of Transportation to help ensure a safe and sufficient transportation system. Congressman Duffy understands this.

He is a five-term Congressman who reached across not just the aisle but across Chambers to bring home needed infrastructure to his district.

To quote his home State Senator, Senator BALDWIN, a Democrat, who spoke glowingly of Congressman Duffy:

Sean is the right person for this job.

I agree with Senator BALDWIN. As a father of nine children, Congressman Duffy told committee members:

I think about transportation quite a bit, and about transportation safety a lot.

He understands what American families care about: making sure that when they get in their cars or on a plane or are with their families, they know they will get to their destinations safely.

He embodies the "revolution of common sense" that President Trump has called for.

Not only has Congressman Duffy earned the support of the entire Commerce Committee, but there are over 60 stakeholders in support of his nomination. Congressman Duffy has received wide support from labor, from airlines, from railroads, from manufacturers, from energy providers, and many more.

It is my hope that, given this unanimous support that Congressman Duffy received on Wednesday from the Commerce Committee, the entire Senate can follow suit, that we can all agree he is the kind of consensus-driven leader we need at the Department of Transportation.

Therefore, I urge all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to come together and vote in support of the confirmation of Sean Duffy to be the next Secretary of Transportation.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON BESSENT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bessent nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, 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 Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 29, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 19 Ex.]

##### YEAS—68

Banks	Fetterman	Lummis
Barrasso	Fischer	Marshall
Blackburn	Gallego	McConnell
Blunt Rochester	Gillibrand	McCormick
Booker	Graham	Moody
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Britt	Hagerty	Moreno
Budd	Hassan	Mullin
Cantwell	Hawley	Murkowski
Capito	Hickenlooper	Paul
Cassidy	Hoeven	Peters
Collins	Husted	Ricketts
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Rounds
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cramer	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Kennedy	Shaheen
Curtis	King	Slotkin
Daines	Lankford	Sullivan
Ernst	Lee	

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Warner	Young

#### NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Klobuchar	Schiff
Baldwin	Lujan	Schumer
Bennet	Markey	Smith
Blumenthal	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Reed	Welch
Heinrich	Rosen	Whitehouse
Hirono	Sanders	Wyden
Kim	Schatz	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Ossoff	Padilla	Sheehy
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). 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 Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived with respect to the Duffy nomination.

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 senior assistant 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. 6, Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, Jon Husted, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Jim Justice, Mike Crapo, Ted Budd, James Lankford, Dan Sullivan, Todd Young, Cynthia M. Lummis, Katie Britt, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson.

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 Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation, 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagerty	Paul
Banks	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Hawley	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Husted	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Britt	Johnson	Schiff
Budd	Justice	Schmitt
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kim	Shaheen
Coons	King	Slotkin
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lujan	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Markey	Van Hollen
Curtis	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Warnock
Duckworth	McCormick	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Welch
Ernst	Moody	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Wyden
Galleo	Mullin	Murphy
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—3

Ossoff Padilla Sheehy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 8.

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 Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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 senior assistant 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. 8, Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9.

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 Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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 senior assistant 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. 9, Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10.

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 Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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 senior assistant 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. 10, Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 7.

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 Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the