

nominees for his administration. I have seen time and time again the courage of Republicans in times of distress.

I don't know of another case I have seen in my 14 years in the Senate where someone so unqualified for the bench is before us. But somehow, right now, it just seems to be too few Republicans willing to stand up with the courage of their convictions to call it like it is, to do their constitutional duty, to look squarely at the qualifications of this judge and see what professionals, prosecutors, judges by the hundreds from both parties have come forward and said to this body: Do not let him go forward.

There are just a few hours left before our final vote on this nominee. This is a time for another profile of courage. I am hoping my Republican colleagues will look at the evidence and join with the conclusion held by so many patriots in our country and not let this man get to one of our highest courts in the land.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as we close this colloquy, I want to thank my colleagues who have come to the floor: Senators DURBIN, KIM, WELCH, WHITEHOUSE, HIRONO, SCHIFF, and now my great friend and colleague Senator BOOKER.

To my Republican friends, let me just say that there is ample evidence on the record already to say no to this nominee. But even if you disagree, what is undeniable here is the point that Senator BOOKER just made and that I made at the very beginning: This record is incomplete. The questions are unanswered.

Just today, I wrote to Attorney General Bondi about the report and investigation that was done by the Office of Professional Responsibility. We have had no access to it. It was done because of a conclusion by the court in a case before it between 2019 and 2021 in the Nejad case that criticized Mr. Bove for offering little in the way of supervision when material was denied to the defendant and the case had to be dismissed. The extent and scope of that investigation has never been disclosed. That is just one example of material that we have a right to see that raises questions that we should insist on being answered.

That letter almost certainly will never get a response—certainly not in time for our vote. But my Republican colleagues will be haunted by those questions. They will be compelled to answer those questions one day to their conscience because this nominee is different.

This nominee should be rejected.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next rollcall vote occur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SZABO NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 432 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Mullin	Tillis
McConnell		

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 actions.

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. 131, Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Todd Young, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Deb Fischer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 433 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Mullin	Tillis
McConnell		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

TRIBUTE TO REAGAN BLACKBURN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Reagan Blackburn, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Reagan is a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, where she is majoring in government and environmental studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Reagan for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on July the Fourth, President Trump signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The centerpiece of this legislation is a permanent extension of the 2017 tax law, thereby averting the largest tax hike in American history without a vote of Congress.

In addition to this, the bill rolls back the Biden administration's Green New Deal. This includes pairing back supercharged green subsidies enacted by my Democrat colleagues as part of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

I have long been a strong proponent of developing alternative energy resources as part of an all the above energy strategy.

I am proud to be the original author of the wind production tax credit. When Congress enacted that credit in 1993, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of U.S. electricity production came from wind. Today, it is over 10 percent. And in my home State of Iowa, it is over 60 percent. Wind development has been an unquestionable success.

My view has always been that tax incentives intended to spur fledgling industries shouldn't last longer than necessary. That is why in 2015 I worked with both the wind and solar industries to phase out their credits over a period

of years. Unfortunately, the Democrats so-called Inflation Reduction Act reversed course and supercharged these credits once more.

As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill, much like I did in 2015, I worked with my colleagues to provide wind and solar an appropriate glidepath for the orderly phase-out of the tax credits.

Many of my colleagues advocated pulling the rug out from wind and solar projects, but I worked to find a sensible compromise. Based on that compromise, the law's December 31, 2027, placed-in-service requirement for wind and solar facilities is only effective for "facilities the construction of which begins after the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment."

This change is intended to grant the wind and solar industries a yearlong transition to confidently move forward with planned projects under the existing continuity safe harbor and the beginning of construction guidance in effect at the time of the law's enactment.

The statute expressly codifies what it means to "begin construction." Congress consciously elected to set the provisions effective date by reference to "beginning of construction" because of its long- and well-established meaning at the time of enactment. Treasury guidance with respect to when construction begins, along with its continuity safe harbor, goes back more than a decade.

It is simply common sense for Congress to look to a well-understood and long-established term in establishing such a transition period. After all, the purpose of a transition period is to allow industry time to adjust to new rules and requirements and avoid market disruptions.

As the Department of the Treasury works to implement the One Big Beautiful Bill, I urge agency officials to do so in accordance with the statute as written and consistent with congressional intent.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-42, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bulgaria for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$620 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bulgaria.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$20 million.

Other \$600 million.

Total \$620 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Three (3) Link-16 Multifunctional Informational Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio Systems.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: tactical Naval Strike Missiles (NSM); inert NSM handling; telemetered NSM; operational, inert NSM; mobile fire control centers with associated communications equipment; mobile missile launch vehicles with associated communications equipment; NSM transport loading vehicles; NavStrike-M Global Positioning System receiver; operator trainer consoles; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); and associated support including but not limited to technical publications, training documentation, technical data packages, support equipment, software support spare parts, training, training simulators, integration services, and U.S. government and original equipment manufacturer technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (BU-P-AAL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 21, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bulgaria—Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System

The Government of Bulgaria has requested to buy a Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System (NSM CDS), including three (3) Link-16 Multifunctional Informational Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS-JTRS) and the following non-MDE items: tactical Naval Strike Missiles (NSM); inert NSM handling; telemetered