

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 12, Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

John Thune, Ashley B. Moody, Mike Rounds, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, Bill Hagerty, Ted Budd, Ron Johnson, Katie Britt, Deb Fischer, Rick Scott of Florida, Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, Tom Cotton, Josh Hawley, Eric Schmitt.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 11.

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 Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 11, Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### CONFIRMATION OF KRISTI NOEM

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 17 of the 119th Congress—confirmation of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security—I would have voted nay. As a Senator who represents nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, I am deeply disturbed by Ms. Noem's poor relationships with Tribal governments.

In fact, Ms. Noem spread disinformation about Tribal communities in her home State which resulted in her banishment from lands held by nine different Tribes. Likewise, Ms. Noem has repeatedly peddled baseless claims about violent crime in several cities—to include my hometown, Portland, OR. Considering Donald Trump's chilling deployment of Homeland Security personnel to Portland and other cities in 2020, I am concerned by how Ms. Noem, with her prejudiced views, may implement similar orders in the coming years.

Additionally, Ms. Noem, as Governor of South Dakota, mishandled the response to devastating floods in her State, to include delaying an emergency declaration, evacuation orders, and deployment of appropriate assets. As Oregon faces worsening storms, floods, and wildfires annually, I have no confidence in her ability to lead the Federal response to disasters and emergencies.

Finally, she has fully endorsed controversial policies many of my constituents oppose, such as broad travel bans and militarizing the southern border. For all these reasons, I would have voted nay on Ms. Noem's confirmation.

#### TRIBUTE TO BETH NIELSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the service of my administrative director Beth Nielson. Soon, Beth will retire from the U.S. Senate with more than 26 years of service to the U.S. Senate and to our Nation.

Beth joined my staff as administrative director in early 2019, merely the most recent stop on a wonderful journey of service to many Senators from across our Nation. Beth brought with her a great breadth and depth of knowledge about the U.S. Senate and how this institution works for Senators and staff. She quickly garnered the trust of my staff with her cheerful attitude to service and deft ability to navigate the many rules of the Senate. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Beth

helped our team immediately pivot to working from home, providing information, support, and guidance as we learned to work together but apart.

A South Dakota native, Beth first came to the Senate to intern in the office of Senator Tim Johnson. From there, she spent time in the office of Senator Tom Daschle, learning the ropes of the Senate and managing vast volumes of mail sent to the Senator from across the country. She returned to Senator Johnson's team and served as his deputy office manager for 5 years. From there, she joined the staff of Senator Ben Nelson as his administrative director for 3 years and then took a brief pause off Capitol Hill. She quickly returned to the Senate and served in the same roles in the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and then Senator Heidi Heitkamp before joining my staff. Beth has also worked for Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK, to aid his staff as they began their time in the Senate.

My staff and I have been reflecting over the many gifts that Beth has shared with us over these past 6 years. She has been a guide to new staff, easing their transitions into the Senate and greeting them with a welcome smile. Beth has served as a mentor and sounding board to more established staff who have taken on new positions or responsibilities, helping them succeed in their roles. She was ready to answer our calls and our questions, to celebrate our milestones and ease our sorrows. We do still question her allegiances to the New York Yankees and the Chicago Bears but have agreed to let those slide.

Beth, thank you for your service to our Nation, to all the staff and Senators you have served with, and to the U.S. Senate.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY SCHAUB

● Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend Mary Schaub, an educator in Hattiesburg, MS. Through her five-decade career as a speech-language pathologist, she has devoted her life to giving children a voice.

Mary was integral to the creation of the Children's Center for Communication and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), and she has faithfully served the center for many years. After completing her education at the University of Wyoming, Mary identified a crucial gap in Mississippi's education system: preschool children who needed language intervention before entering kindergarten. She designed a program to fill that divide. The initiative was first called the Preschool Language Program and served six local preschool-aged children in a small office space on USM's campus.

Since those humble beginnings, the program has blossomed. Now called the

Children's Center, it serves an average of 140 children every year, from infants to 5-year-olds. The children benefit from comprehensive services that include speech therapy, special instruction, social work, audiology, auditory-verbal therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. In short, Mary has revolutionized the treatment Mississippi's children receive when they are struggling with complex communication disorders.

Mary's work continues today. She is helping facilitate the growth of the center through a position on its advisory board. She also teaches as a professor in the School of Speech and Hearing Sciences at USM's College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Mrs. Schaub's career is a testament to the impact one educator can have on countless lives. I join my fellow Mississippians in thanking Mrs. Mary Schaub for her half-century of work in the classroom and for the gift of speech that she has given to thousands of children.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-216. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order; Clarifying Changes" (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0080) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-217. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Plant Records To Include Grade Label Butterfat Testing" ((RIN0581-AE20) (Docket No. AMS-DA-22-0064)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-218. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems" ((RIN0581-AE18) (Docket No. AMS-FTPP-22-0046)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-219. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Amendments to the Orders" (Docket No. AMS-DA-23-0031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-220. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certificates of Compliance" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025;

to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-221. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties - 2025 Adjustment" (Docket No. EP 716) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-222. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Document Submission Process for Compliance with Electronic Records Mandate" ((RIN1625-AC93) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0584)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-223. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Soft Infant and Toddler Carriers" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-224. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Broker and Freight Forwarder Financial Responsibility; Extension of Compliance Date" (RIN2126-AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-225. A communication from the Director of Operations, Management, and Information Division, Office of Science and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Confidentiality of Information" (RIN0648-BM26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-226. A communication from the Attorney Advisor of the Regulatory Affairs Division, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments: Corrections to Conform to Judicial Review" (RIN2137-AF39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-227. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22881" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0228)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-228. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2440)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-229. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Specified Areas of the Sanaa Flight Information Region" ((RIN2120-AL96) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8672)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-230. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Compliance Date to Designate a U.S. Agent for Service for Individuals With foreign Addresses Who Apply for Certain Certificates, Ratings, or Authorizations" ((RIN2120-AL85) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1194)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-231. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4146" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31583)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-232. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4145" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-233. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pontiac, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2366)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-234. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Smith Carter, KS" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2368)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-235. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gaylord, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2369)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-236. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of