

Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 77 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet Gallego

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45. 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 Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete this unanimous consent request before we recess.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, America lost a man who devoted his life to serving America. Robert Mueller passed away on March 20. He left behind an amazing legacy of patriotism, honesty, integrity, and courage.

In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, Robert Mueller chose to enlist in the Marine Corps. He was a rifle platoon leader. Years later, he said that of all his accomplishments in life, he was “most proud the Marine Corps deemed me worthy of leading other Marines.”

He earned a Bronze Star for valor when his platoon was ambushed, suffering multiple casualties. He rescued—personally rescued—a wounded marine. He earned a Purple Heart after being wounded by enemy fire while leading his platoon to rescue soldiers who were pinned down by the enemy.

While Mr. Mueller’s time in the Marines ended in 1970, that is far from the end of his service to this country. After his military service, Robert Mueller became a lawyer and spent most of his life in public service.

A lifelong Republican—a lifelong Republican—he served for many years as a prosecutor and senior Justice Department official under both Republican and Democratic Presidents alike.

Throughout the 1990s, Mr. Mueller would serve in various positions at the Department of Justice, working as a senior litigator in the Homicide Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California. Mueller’s work won him the admiration of both President George W. Bush and the U.S. Senate.

One week before September 11, 2001, Bob Mueller was sworn in as Director of the FBI. In the aftermath of the horrific 9/11 terrorist attack, Bob Mueller worked tirelessly to make our Nation safe.

Director Mueller led the FBI in a tumultuous time. After the worst terror attack in American history, Bob Mueller more than any single individual was responsible for modernizing the FBI to combat the threats that we face in the 21st century. It was my honor to support him in that effort.

It is no surprise that when his term with the FBI was set to expire in 2011, President Obama asked the Senate to extend Mueller’s term by 2 years. The vote in the Senate was unanimous—100 to nothing—in favor of Bob Mueller, as it should have been.

Mr. Mueller left the FBI in 2013, and even that was not the end of his service to the American people. In 2017, Director Mueller was asked to serve his Nation one last time. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, a Trump appointee, asked Mueller to serve as special counsel to investigate Russia’s efforts to interfere in the 2016 election.

While my colleagues and I have spent many years debating the merits of the

Mueller report, his work on Russia’s interference in the 2016 election and throughout his time at DOJ and FBI demonstrates true character, hard work, courage, honesty, professionalism, and a dedication to our Constitution.

In honor of his legacy, I introduced a resolution with my colleagues from Virginia, his home State, that recognizes the contributions Bob Mueller made to our Nation. I will now make a unanimous consent request to pass the resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and as if in legislative session, the Senate proceed to the consideration of my resolution, which is at the desk; further, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, of all the things that the U.S. Senate should be focusing on today, like funding DHS and paying our TSA agents or protecting our elections with the SAVE America Act, Democrats instead are bringing yet again another resolution that is a clear political potshot against President Trump. Democrats are more interested today in rehashing their failed attempt to delegitimize the 2016 election a decade ago than in bettering our great country.

The fact of the matter is, the reputation of Robert Mueller is a mixed bag, and the end result of the Mueller investigation that my colleague just talked about was a farce.

What has always remained constant is that Democrats just can’t accept that Donald Trump won the election in 2016 fair and square. Ten years after that historic victory, Democrats are still complaining about it and advancing their Russian collusion hoax. Democrats know that the Russian collusion hoax was their attempt to undermine President Trump. They knew and they know now that it has been debunked time and time again.

The Mueller investigation was meant to stop President Trump and derail his agenda that he was elected by the American people to advance in 2016, and it was very costly to the American people and to this great country.

Robert Mueller will always be intertwined with the Russian collusion hoax that greatly damaged this country.

This resolution adds fuel to a fire that really burned out a long time ago. It is just another political hit job at President Trump, and I am not going to go along with it today.

There are so many more important things that we should be doing on the floor today—again, like funding DHS or protecting our elections. Mr. President, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am disappointed that the junior Senator from Indiana has blocked the Senate from honoring an American hero, Bob Mueller, who protected our national security with his life and for decades served the call to public service.

This is so unusual, to come to the floor and to honor someone who has served the county the way Bob Mueller did and to have an objection. And to say that it was a “political potshot” against Donald Trump—it was not at all. The effort that I made on the floor was to extol the virtues of a man who served this country and risked his life for this country over and over again.

My colleague is objecting for one reason only: President Donald Trump despises Robert Mueller and his memory because Trump’s own administration appointed Mueller as special counsel to investigate Russia’s efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. Mr. Mueller’s comprehensive investigation resulted in 37 indictments, 7 guilty pleas or convictions, and 14 criminal referrals to other U.S. Department of Justice counterparts. This, to Donald Trump, was an unforgivable sin.

Do you remember what President Trump said when he heard that this man died, exactly what he said? The President of the United States said of Bob Mueller:

Good. I’m glad he’s dead.

“Good. I’m glad he’s dead”—words from the mouth of the President of the United States, a man who poses as the messiah or some doctor; I don’t understand which.

“Good. I’m glad he’s dead”—the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, responding to the passing of a marine, Bob Mueller, who received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

This is not the first time the President has attacked an American hero. I am sorry that the Senator from Indiana joined in that attack. We cannot pretend this cruel and un-American behavior is normal. I am sorry the Senator from Indiana sees it differently.

I want to say to Bob Mueller’s family, who I believe is watching: He is still an American hero in my eyes, and though this political move was made on the floor—and it seldom is made; I am sorry—it doesn’t change one bit the fact that Bob Mueller served this country honorably, with dignity and character, his whole life.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:23 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON WOLFE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wolfe nomination?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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 senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 78 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

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	

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Minnesota.

H.J. RES. 140

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a Congressional Review Act resolution H.J. Res. 140 that could come before the Senate any time over the next 2 weeks, and I want to speak directly to my Republican colleagues about this CRA and why you should vote against it.

This CRA would roll back protections for the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Northeastern Minnesota. It would allow copper-nickel sulfide mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters, which would be devastating to the wilderness.

The decision that the Senate makes—that we will make—in the coming weeks will have long-term implications for the Boundary Waters, certainly, but it will also have long-

term implications for how we go about protecting public lands around the country going forward.

So I want to start with the core point being a Minnesota Senator, that Minnesota is a mining State. We support mining, just not this mine in this place. Minnesota is a mining and natural resources State. We have a wealth of natural resources, and mining is a really important part of our economy.

We are proud to be the No. 1 source of iron for the whole country. We produced three-quarters of the iron that went into the tanks and planes that led us to victory in World War II, and we are still producing most of the Nation’s iron ore today.

And it is also true there are other potential mines in Minnesota that are currently under consideration and development that would produce copper and nickel and other precious metals.

Responsible mining is an economic driver in Minnesota; and it is part of our history; and it is part of our future.

So why oppose this CRA which would pave the way for developing a copper-nickel sulfide mine on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters?

Colleagues, I want to give you three reasons why this is a bad idea. The first is this is an incredibly special place. It is beloved by Minnesota and beloved by people around the country, and this mine in this place poses an unacceptable risk.

For those of you who haven’t been to the Boundary Waters, I want you to picture a million acres of pristine lakes and bogs and rivers. There is a wealth of hunting and fishing resources. People canoe everywhere. I was there last summer just on a day trip into the Boundary Waters, and I saw two wolves just on that one day.

You will find here some of the cleanest, freshest water any place in the world. You can go out into the middle of lakes and dip your cup into the water and drink the water right from the lake. You see lake trout and northern pike and walleye. I mean, there is no place in the world that is better to be than this.

That is why over 150,000 people visit the Boundary Waters every year in the mosquito season of the summertime and in the ice and freezing cold of the wintertime. It is one of the most visited national wilderness areas in the whole country.

As a result of that, the outdoor recreation economy in Northern Minnesota generates thousands of jobs. The Boundary Waters supports hundreds and hundreds of small, local businesses, and it generates millions of dollars in economic activity for Minnesota. Outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver in the region around the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area.

What this mine would do is to put all of that at an unacceptable risk. This kind of mine has been built in other places around the country and around the world, and in 100 percent of the instances, this mine has caused pollution.