



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

No. 203

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, who brought creation out of the void, light from darkness, and order from chaos. You own everything. Lord, use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they daily experience the joy of companionship with You. As they encounter each day—pleasure, pain, and defeat—may they live to honor Your Name. Remind our Senators that no evil can stop the unfolding of Your purposes and providence. Lord, lead them this day with Your merciful hands providing for their needs. Bless all who work to defend freedom. May no weapon formed against them prosper.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators being permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

FARMERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is real concern in rural America, particularly among family farmers. Farmers know that margins matter. Farmers don't want to see their revenue continue being eaten up by input suppliers.

So we need to do what we can to ensure that competition in seed and fertilizer industries is fair and that markets are transparent to our farmers. That is a very important consideration, at this very time, as the Trump administration and we Members of Congress look to provide aid to farmers.

This is a top concern that I hear from many family farmers. My farmers are concerned that Federal dollars meant to help the farmers will simply get passed on to seed and fertilizer companies.

That concern brings me to my legislation and bringing it to the attention of my fellow Senators. Passing the Fertilizer Research Act is the first step in addressing those concerns. I hope my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee will join me to provide transparency for farmers through this very important legislation that I am offering.

So please take a good look, a very hard look, at the Fertilizer Research Act.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am very pleased to report that, as of yesterday, the Senate has confirmed a total of 314 of President Trump's civilian nominees, and earlier this week, I filed on another nominations package, which,

when passed, will bring our total confirmations to more than 400. That far outstrips total confirmations by this point in President Biden's term and in President Trump's first term, as well, and it is particularly notable that we have managed to beat those first term numbers when you consider the obstacles the Democrats have put up.

I have talked more than once, here on the floor, about Democrats' unprecedented obstruction of the President's nominees this year. And I really do mean unprecedented. For decades upon decades, the Senate has expedited the consideration of large numbers of Presidential nominees, confirming them by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, for example, each had 98 percent of their civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote in the first term of their Presidencies—98 percent. George W. Bush and Barack Obama each had 90 percent.

Now, it is true that Democrats substantially eroded this tradition of bipartisanship during President Trump's first term. All of a sudden, positions that had traditionally gone by unanimous consent or voice vote were now requiring rollcall votes. But even so, both President Biden and President Trump in his first term had more than half of their nominees confirmed by voice vote.

And then there was this year. This year, not one single Presidential nominee has been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—not one. Democrats have dragged out the process on every single one of the President's nominations. The Democrat leader tried to justify the Democrats' historic blockade by claiming that the President's nominees have been “historically bad.”

The only problem with that is the Democrats have supported a number of the President's nominees in committee and have even voted for some of them on the Senate floor. So either Members

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S8493