

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATION OF RODNEY SCOTT, TO BE COMMISSIONER,
3 CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
4 SECURITY
5 TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025
6 U.S. Senate,
7 Committee on Finance,
8 Washington, DC.

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10 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10
11 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
12 Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee) presiding.

13
14 Present: Senator Wyden.

15 Also present: Republican staff: Brian Bombassaro,
16 International Trade Counsel; Andrew Dell'Orto, Policy
17 Advisor; Molly Newell, International Trade Counsel;
18 Mayur Patel, Chief International Trade Counsel; and
19 Gregg Richard, Staff Director. Democratic staff:
20 Joseph Johnson, Senior Trade Counsel; Virginia Lenahan,
21 Chief International Trade Counsel; Joshua Sheinkman,
22 Staff Director; and Shade Streeter, Investigative
23 Counsel.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
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4 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.
5 We meet today to consider favorably reporting the
6 nomination of Rodney Scott to be Commissioner of the
7 U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

8 As we have done with other nominees, the meeting
9 this morning will provide members with the opportunity
10 to offer remarks on Mr. Scott's nomination. We will
11 notify members of a time and location later today to
12 conduct the vote, and my understanding is that it's been
13 agreed that that would be at 11:30.

14 At his hearing, Mr. Scott outlined his vision to
15 empower the CBP workforce through revamped training and
16 expansion of resources and modernized processes to
17 enhance efficiency. I look forward to working with him,
18 if confirmed, to ensure that the CBP is focused on
19 border security, national security, the flow of
20 legitimate trade, and enforcement of U.S. trade laws.

21 Mr. Scott's 29 years of service to the U.S. Border
22 Patrol in our country makes him duly qualified to
23 oversee CBP, one of the world's largest law enforcement
24 agencies. Mr. Scott knows what policies make CBP
25 effective, and I'm confident he will implement these

1 policies as soon as he is confirmed.

2 I will vote in favor of his nomination, and I
3 encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do
4 the same.

5 I now recognize Senator Wyden.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OREGON

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4 Senator Wyden. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

5 U.S. Customs and Border Protection is responsible
6 for all of the goods and people flowing across our
7 borders. It's no exaggeration to say the person in
8 charge of this vast agency is tasked with protecting our
9 country and our economy. That is certainly a tall
10 order. And unfortunately, after careful review of his
11 background and qualifications, I can firmly say that the
12 evidence shows that Mr. Scott falls short.

13 In my view, he is unfit and unqualified to be CBP
14 Commissioner. He has no experience with Customs
15 facilitation or enforcement. Donald Trump is creating
16 the biggest disruptions to the U.S. Customs system that
17 I have seen in my time in public service, and he's
18 prepared to leave it in the hands of somebody who has no
19 experience with Customs.

20 The head of CBP will also be in charge of limiting
21 the impact of Trump's disastrous tariffs on supply
22 chains and workers. If goods crossing the border get
23 backed up or delayed, that can make or break small
24 businesses in my home State that rely on these goods.

25 Oregon is overwhelmingly a small business State.

1 When you go at it, you can probably count the number of
2 big businesses on both hands, where a small business
3 State and small businesses are getting hammered by these
4 tariff policies. Nothing I've seen in Mr. Scott's
5 background shows me he is prepared to meet the
6 challenges I've described.

7 He also has a long history of problematic
8 leadership and judgment. Perhaps the most egregious
9 example is his involvement in the coverup of a homicide
10 of a migrant detained while Mr. Scott was leading the
11 Border Patrol office in San Diego in 2010. A migrant by
12 the name of Mr. Roxas was detained after crossing the
13 border. He was then beaten by CBP agents and eventually
14 died as a direct result of his injuries.

15 As the guy in charge, the question then becomes,
16 what did Mr. Scott do? First, he didn't follow his own
17 agency's policies. He didn't immediately refer the
18 incident to outside investigators. Instead, the office
19 he led started its own investigation into Mr. Roxas's
20 death. A former CBP Internal Affairs official told us
21 that the investigation was, "Not an investigation. It
22 was a coverup. One Mr. Scott supervised."

23 An independent human rights commission ruled a few
24 weeks ago that the U.S. Government violated human rights
25 principles in the coverup of Mr. Roxas's death.

1 Fast forward to the summer of 2020 when the Trump
2 administration deployed a staggering number of Federal
3 law enforcement officials in my hometown of Portland to
4 suppress peaceful protests. He was serving as chief of
5 Border Patrol at that time.

6 And at that time, they provided vast support for
7 the deployment of Federal law enforcement officers that
8 whisked peaceful protestors away in\ d unmarked vehicles,
9 shot protestors in the head, and unleashed chemical
10 weapons and contaminants.

11 Now, in his second term, Donald Trump seems eager
12 to use every tool at his disposal to weaponize the
13 Federal Government against groups and individuals that
14 disagree with him or attempt to push back on his agenda.
15 The person in charge of our borders has to be somebody
16 who is able and willing to push back on the worst
17 impulses and directives of Donald Trump.

18 We don't need to question what Mr. Scott would do
19 if given a questionable order from Donald Trump, because
20 we already know he has a history of covering up the
21 truth when it benefits him in a willingness to enable
22 Donald Trump's worst impulses to target American
23 citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

24 Again, I want to come back to the proposition that
25 Customs and Border Patrol -- and I think this is well

1 understood on both sides of the aisle that at the helm
2 of this critical agency, you need somebody who's going
3 to prioritize protecting American families and
4 facilitating trade that benefits American businesses.
5 And you need a Commissioner who's going to crack down on
6 fentanyl smuggling and human trafficking.

7 We know that law enforcement can make a
8 difference. We've seen evidence of that in my home
9 State just recently. We need a person who's going to
10 not be preoccupied with doing the political bidding of
11 the President, but to focus on the kind of agenda that
12 taps the skills and experience to make sure that we
13 wring every bit of benefit out of Customs and Border
14 Patrol. a critical agency.

15 For all of these reasons, I can't support Mr.
16 Scott's nomination, and I'm going to urge my colleagues
17 now to vote "no." And we'll continue to urge that as we
18 go forward.

19 The Chairman. All right. Thank you, Senator
20 Wyden.

21 And I see that there are no other Senators here
22 desiring to make a statement. So we will, at this
23 point, recess and reconvene on the floor at 11:30 during
24 the 11:30 vote and have our vote at that time.

25 Without objection, it is so ordered,

1 and the committee stands in recess.

2 [Whereupon, at 10:09 a.m., the meeting was
3 concluded.]

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5 The open executive session was reconvened,
6 pursuant to notice, on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 11:30
7 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol,
8 Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee) presiding.

9 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

10 We now have a quorum. I move that we favorably
11 report the nomination of Rodney Scott.

12 Senator Grassley. Seconded.

13 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

15 Senator Grassley. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

17 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

19 Senator Thune. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

21 Senator Scott. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

23 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

25 Senator Lankford. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
2 Senator Daines. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
4 Senator Young. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
6 Senator Barrasso. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
8 Senator Johnson. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
10 Senator Tillis. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
12 Senator Blackburn. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
14 Senator Marshall. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
16 Senator Wyden. Nay.
17 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
18 Senator Cantwell. Nay.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
20 Senator Bennet. Nay.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
22 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
24 Senator Whitehouse. Nay.
25 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

1 Senator Hassan. Nay.

2 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

3 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

4 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

5 Senator Warren. Nay.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

7 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

9 Senator Smith. Nay.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

11 Senator Luján. Nay.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

13 Senator Warnock. Nay.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

15 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

17 The Chairman. Aye.

18 The Clerk will announce the vote.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
20 ayes and 13 nays.

21 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. I thank my
22 colleagues for their attendance.

23 The committee stands adjourned.

24 [Whereupon, at 12:09 p.m., the meeting was
25 adjourned.]

1	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
2	Hon. Mike Crapo,	2
3	a U.S. Senator from Idaho	
4		
5	Hon. Ron Wyden,	4
6	a U.S. Senator from Oregon	