

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF WILLIAM KIMMITT, TO BE UNDER
3 SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF
4 COMMERCE; AND KENNETH J. KIES, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
5 FOR TAX POLICY, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
6 TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025
7 U.S. Senate,
8 Committee on Finance,
9 Washington, DC.

10 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at
11 10:03 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
12 Building, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee)
13 presiding.

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15 Present: Senator Wyden.

16 Also present: Republican staff: Brian Bombassaro,
17 International Trade Counsel; Andrew Dell'Orto, Policy
18 Advisor; Molly Newell, International Trade Counsel;
19 Mayur Patel, International Trade Counsel; and Gregg
20 Richard, Staff Director. Democratic staff: Virginia
21 Lenahan, Chief International Trade Counsel; Noma Ndlovu,
22 Trade Counsel; Sarah Schaefer, Chief Tax Advisor; Joshua
23 Sheinkman, Staff Director; Tiffany Smith, Deputy Staff
24 Director and Chief Counsel; and Shade Streeter,
25 Investigative Counsel.
26

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 nominations of William Kimmitt, who is nominated to
7 serve as Under Secretary of Commerce for International
8 Trade, and Mr. Kenneth Kies, who is nominated to serve
9 as the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the
10 Treasury Department.

11 The meeting this morning will provide members with
12 the opportunity to make remarks on the nominees. We
13 will notify members of a time and location later today
14 to conduct the vote, as we've agreed between each other.

15 During the hearing, Mr. Kimmitt spoke about his
16 mission to ensure the International Trade Administration
17 is a champion for American workers and industries, and
18 to promote a trade policy that is guided by a strategic
19 understanding of our national interest. I look forward
20 to working with him, if confirmed, to accomplish these
21 goals.

22 Turning now to Mr. Kies -- who has decades of
23 experience in the tax policy world. Mr. Kies spoke
24 about the importance of permanently extending and
25 building on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to prevent a more

1 than \$4-trillion tax hike and deliver certainty and
2 stability to American families and businesses, as well
3 as provide additional middle-class tax relief.

4 Mr. Kies, if confirmed, will be a valuable partner
5 in our efforts to deliver on President Trump's economic
6 agenda. I'll be voting in favor of both nominees, and I
7 encourage all my colleagues on the committee to do the
8 same.

9 I now recognize our ranking member, Senator Wyden,
10 for his remarks.

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 This morning, as you've noted, we're going to vote
6 on the nominations of William Kimmitt to serve as the
7 Commerce Under Secretary for International Trade, and
8 Ken Kies to serve as Assistant Treasury Secretary for
9 Tax Policy. Should they be confirmed, they would play
10 key roles in Donald Trump's plan to implement a
11 destructive and damaging economic agenda.

12 This past week, I was home holding town hall
13 meetings in counties won overwhelmingly by Donald Trump.
14 And as I met with Oregon's world-renowned farmers,
15 ranchers, and producers, the message from Oregonians is
16 clear: Donald Trump has left our workers and businesses
17 in limbo.

18 They're on a roller coaster of economic
19 uncertainty, questioning if they'll still have a job by
20 the end of the year or be able to keep their business or
21 farm afloat. Donald Trump's trade chaos is in fact a
22 wrecking ball for America's economy and businesses.

23 No temporary pause on tariff changes will change
24 the reality that Donald Trump has started a trade war on
25 a scale that America has not seen in a century. The

1 fact is, major damage has already been done. Businesses
2 are left with an uncertain economic future. Our foreign
3 trading partners are starting to discuss trade
4 agreements that would actually exclude the United States
5 and lock out American producers from foreign markets.

6 The stock market is still reeling from a
7 devastating collapse. Donald Trump has done irreparable
8 damage to the American economy and our status as a
9 trusted global trading partner. Meanwhile, Donald Trump
10 and the Republicans charge ahead with a plan that looks
11 certain to include a massive bailout for billionaires.
12 It would be paid for by kicking millions of people off
13 their health insurance and cutting programs that kids
14 and families rely on to stay safe and healthy.

15 So that brings us to today's nominees. Donald
16 Trump has pushed the Commerce Department front and
17 center in the trade and tariff debate.

18 Mr. Kimmitt has been at the Commerce Department
19 for a while. If confirmed, he would be a key player in
20 implementing a disastrous trade agenda from Donald
21 Trump. Mr. Kies, meanwhile, is fully committed to
22 extending the Republican's 2017 tax cut for billionaires
23 and big multinational companies.

24 They'll be key in orchestrating Donald Trump's
25 economic and trade agenda, which amounts to nothing more

1 than a boondoggle for billionaires. He'll be
2 influential on taxes, trade, and so many important
3 areas, but the reality is, he's going to be a key figure
4 in orchestrating more breaks for billionaires.

5 In short, Donald Trump has nominated Mr. Kimmitt
6 to serve as a grim reaper for the middle class, and Mr.
7 Kies to make the Treasury into an ATM for the
8 ultra-wealthy. Like the rest of the Trump inner circle,
9 these nominees are handpicked to carry out a dangerous
10 agenda -- and families and businesses be damned. So
11 that's where things stand.

12 As the Finance Committee meets this morning,
13 Americans face economic chaos caused by a trade war.
14 Nobody can win, and Republicans look poised to jam
15 through another bailout for the ultra-wealthy, paid for
16 by ripping away the lifelines that millions of Americans
17 from all across our country count on.

18 There's been no discussion among Republicans of
19 tackling a number of big economic challenges the country
20 faces today. Democrats and Americans want to make
21 health care more affordable. We want to create more
22 good jobs. We want to make sure that there's a tax code
23 that gives everybody in America the chance to get ahead
24 and everybody pays their fair share.

25 You don't have to look any further than

1 Republicans' planned bailout for billionaires and
2 corporations to know that Republican priorities begin
3 and end with help for friends and influential donors who
4 consistently do better, get richer, while everybody else
5 gets left behind.

6 If confirmed, Mr. Kies and Mr. Kimmitt would
7 immediately get to work to help Donald Trump implement
8 what I consider to be a very dangerous agenda for
9 America. I will be voting "no," and urge my colleagues
10 to do so as well.

11 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Wyden.

12 And now we would turn to other Senators for
13 comments, if there were some here. We don't -- I don't
14 see any here present, so unless you have any other
15 business.

16 Senator Wyden. No.

17 The Chairman. Then we will now proceed, without
18 objection, to recess the committee and reconvene off the
19 floor to vote on the nominations of these two nominees
20 at a time when we will give notification to the members
21 of the committee.

22 Senator Wyden. That will be fine.

23 The Chairman. Without objection, so ordered, and
24 the committee stands in recess.

25 [Whereupon, at 10:09 a.m., the meeting was

1 recessed.]

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3 The open executive session was reconvened,
4 pursuant to notice, on Thursday, April 29, 2025, at
5 11:30 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S.
6 Capitol, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee)
7 presiding.

8 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

9 We now have a quorum. I move that we favorably
10 report the nomination of William Kimmitt.

11 Senator Grassley. Seconded.

12 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

14 Senator Grassley. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

16 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

18 Senator Thune. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

20 Senator Scott. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

22 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

24 Senator Lankford. Aye.

25 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

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

1 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

2 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

3 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

4 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

6 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

7 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

8 Senator Smith. Nay.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

10 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

12 Senator Warnock. Nay.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

14 Senator Welch. Nay.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

16 The Chairman. Aye.

17 The Clerk will announce the vote.

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

20 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it.

21 We'll now move to favorably report the nomination
22 of Kenneth Kies.

23 Senator Grassley. Seconded.

24 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

25 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

1 Senator Grassley. Aye.
2 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
3 Senator Cornyn. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
5 Senator Thune. Aye.
6 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
7 Senator Scott. Aye.
8 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
9 Senator Cassidy. Aye.
10 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
11 Senator Lankford. Aye.
12 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
13 Senator Daines. Aye.
14 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
15 Senator Young. Aye.
16 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
17 Senator Barrasso. Aye.
18 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
19 Senator Johnson. Aye.
20 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
21 Senator Tillis. Aye.
22 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
23 Senator Blackburn. Aye.
24 The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
25 Senator Marshall. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
2 Senator Wyden. Nay.
3 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
4 Senator Cantwell. Nay.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
6 Senator Bennet. Nay.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
8 Senator Warner. Nay.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
10 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
11 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
12 Senator Hassan. Nay.
13 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
14 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.
15 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
16 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?
18 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
19 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?
20 Senator Smith. Nay.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?
22 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?
24 Senator Warnock. Nay.
25 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

1 Senator Welch. Nay.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

3 The Chairman. Aye.

4 The Clerk will announce the vote.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
6 ayes and 13 nays.

7 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it.

8 I thank my colleagues for their attendance. The
9 committee stands adjourned.

10 [Whereupon, at 12:28 p.m., the meeting was
11 adjourned.]

1	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
2	Hon. Mike Crapo,	2
3	a U.S. Senator from Idaho,	
4	chairman, Committee on Finance	
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6	Hon. Ron Wyden,	4
7	a U.S. Senator from Oregon	