1   EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF

2   THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. PORTMAN, TO BE U.S. TRADE

3   REPRESENTATIVE

4   TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005

5   U.S. Senate,

6   Committee on Finance,

7   Washington, DC.

8   The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at

9   10:05 am., in room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building,

10   Hon. Charles E. Grassley (chairman of the committee)

11   presiding.

12   Also present: Senators Hatch, Lott, Snowe, Kyl,

13   Thomas, Frist, Crapo, Baucus, Conrad, Bingaman, Kerry,

14   and Wyden.

15   Also present: Kolan Davis, Republican Staff Director

16   and Chief Counsel; Russ Sullivan, Democratic Staff

17   Director; Dean Zerbe, Tax Counsel and Senior Counsel to

18   the Chairman; and Carla Martin, Chief Clerk.

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1   OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, CHAIRMAN,

2   COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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4   The Chairman.   Our meeting will come to order.   We

5   announced at a previous meeting of the committee that if

6   we had a quorum present at today's hearing--and we do

7   have a quorum, my staff tells me--that we would have an

8   executive session of the committee in order to report the

9   nomination of Robert J. Portman to be U.S. Trade

10   Representative.

11   So I now ask the committee to be in executive session

12   to favorably report that nomination.

13   So with no discussion, if it is all right --

14   Senator Baucus.   Mr. Chairman?

15   The Chairman.   Yes?

16   Senator Baucus.   Mr. Chairman, I move that Mr.

17   Portman's nomination be reported favorably by the

18   committee.

19   Senator Wyden.   Second.

20   The Chairman.   Moved and seconded.   Those in favor,

21   say aye.

22   [A chorus of ayes]

23   The Chairman.   Those opposed, say no.

24   [No response]

25   The Chairman.   Obviously, the ayes have it and the

1   nomination of Robert J. Portman, U.S. Trade

2   Representative, is favorably reported from the Senate

3   Finance Committee.

4   [Senator Lincoln's comments are attached hereto.]

5   [Whereupon, at 10:07 a.m., the meeting was

6   concluded.]

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