OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
THE NOMINATIONS OF HON. MARIA LOUISE LAGO, TO BE UNDER
SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE; AND LISA W. WANG, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE, INTERNATIONAL TRADE
ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

U.S. Senate,
Committee on Finance,
Washington, DC.

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
9:37 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon.
Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senator Crapo.

Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans,
Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; Ian Nicholson,
Investigator and Nominations Advisor; and Joshua
Sheinkman, Staff Director. Republican staff: Lincoln
Foran, Policy Advisor; John O'Neal, Trade Policy
Director and Counsel; Mayur Patel, Chief International
Trade Counsel; Gregg Richard, Staff Director; and
Jeffrey Wrase, Deputy Staff Director and Chief
Economist.
OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM OREGON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Chairman. This meeting will come to order.

Today we meet to consider two pending nominations of Maria Louise Lago and Lisa Wang to take on important roles at the Commerce Department.

This morning we have a lot of committees here in the Senate conducting business, and certainly we have a lot of Finance members with challenging schedules today.

We had some consultations with our friend, Ranking Member Senator Crapo, and here is how we are going to proceed. We will use this time to make statements about the nominees. I will make a short statement, followed by Senator Crapo, and followed by any other Finance members who would like to make statements.

At that point, we intend to recess until the next roll call vote on the Senate floor, when the committee will reconvene in the President's Room off the floor to have the vote, if that is acceptable. The vote is expected at 11:30 a.m., and I believe that is acceptable to my colleague, Senator Crapo.

So, our first nominee will be Marisa Lago, who is nominated to serve as Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade. Once confirmed, she would head up
the International Trade Administration. This is a job with big responsibilities: enforcement of trade laws to protect and create American jobs, breaking down barriers to our exports, and leveling the playing field for small and medium-sized businesses.

Ms. Lago is a very experienced public official. In the Obama administration she served as Assistant Treasury Secretary for International Markets Development. She led the Office of International Affairs at the Securities and Exchange Commission. She was a top economic development official for New York State and the city of Boston. So that makes her a strong pick to lead the ITA.

Next up, Lisa Wang is nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance. Anybody who has followed our committee on trade policy knows that we take a special interest in vigorous trade enforcement. That is what this job is all about, cracking down hard on trade cheats and holding other countries to their commitments in order to protect American jobs and give American workers and businesses more opportunities to get ahead.

Ms. Wang also is highly experienced, particularly in enforcement issues, having previously served as a senior attorney in the Trade Enforcement and Compliance Office
at the Commerce Department. She also served as Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and has extensive experience in private practice. Strong trade enforcement is her area of legal expertise. These are roles with a clear focus that is very important to this committee.

Senator Crapo and I have talked often about the priority of focusing on creating good jobs and opportunities for American workers by getting trade done right. I am confident that Ms. Lago and Ms. Wang will have a lot of success. Both nominees have my full support. I urge the committee members on both sides of the aisle to support them as well.

And we will turn it over now to Senator Crapo for his opening remarks. And should there be any other members who wish to speak, that is appropriate now as well.

Senator Crapo?
OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
FROM IDAHO

Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Today we are voting on two nominees who, if confirmed, will play important roles in shaping U.S. trade policy at the Department of Commerce. I intend to support each.

Ms. Lago, in your opening statement at your nomination hearing you noted that you believed in the power of trade and investment to improve lives. I share that view. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, I expect that you will be a vigorous champion for expanding market access opportunities that Americans need today. This administration can and must do more on this front.

Ms. Wang, you have extensive trade remedy experience. Our trade remedy laws are important tools to combat unfair trade. Despite a deferential standard of review, U.S. courts routinely find that the Department of Commerce's determinations are not supported by substantial evidence. This must change.

Our citizens rely on effective administration of U.S. trade remedy laws. If confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, I want you to
ensure that the Department of Commerce's trade remedy
determinations are of the highest quality.

Thank you for holding this executive session today,
Mr. Chairman, and I yield back to you.

The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Crapo. So once
again, it is our intent, because we wish to advance
these nominations, to vote on them, to reconvene in the
President's Room off the floor to have this vote, I
expect, at 11:30 a.m. And the committee will reconvene
in the President's Room.

Thank you, Senator Crapo.

[Whereupon, at 9:42 a.m., the meeting was recessed,
to reconvene at 11:30 a.m.]

The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant
to notice, on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 11:30
a.m., in Room S-216, The President’s Room, U.S. Capitol,
Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The Chairman. We will now continue the open
executive session from this morning to consider the
nominations of Maria Lago and Lisa Wang.

I would entertain a motion to favorably report the
nomination of Ms. Lago.

Senator Crapo. So moved.

The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.
The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

Senator Stabenow. Aye.

The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

Senator Cantwell. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

Senator Menendez. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Carper?


The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

Senator Cardin. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Brown?


The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

Senator Bennet. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

Senator Casey. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Warner?


The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?


The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

Senator Hassan. Aye.

The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

Senator Wyden. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
The Clerk.   Mr. Crapo?
Senator Crapo.   Aye.
The Clerk.   Mr. Grassley?
Senator Grassley.   Aye.
The Clerk.   Mr. Cornyn?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Thune?
Senator Thune.   Aye.
The Clerk.   Mr. Burr?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Portman?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Toomey?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Scott?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Cassidy?
Senator Cassidy.   Aye.
The Clerk.   Mr. Lankford?
Senator Lankford.   No.
The Clerk.   Mr. Daines?
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.   Mr. Young?
Senator Young.   Aye.
The Clerk.  Mr. Sasse?
Senator Crapo.  Aye by proxy.
The Clerk.  Mr. Barrasso?
Senator Barrasso.  Aye.
The Clerk.  Mr. Chairman?
The Chairman.  Aye.
The clerk will announce the vote.
The Clerk.  Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 27
ayes, 1 nay.
The Chairman.  The “ayes” have it.  The
nomination is ordered favorably reported.
I would now entertain a motion to favorably report
the nomination of Ms. Wang.
Senator Crapo.  So moved.
The Chairman.  The clerk will call the roll.
The Clerk.  Ms. Stabenow?
Senator Stabenow.  Aye.
The Clerk.  Ms. Cantwell?
Senator Cantwell.  Aye.
The Clerk.  Mr. Menendez?
Senator Menendez.  No.
The Clerk.  Mr. Carper?
The Clerk.  Mr. Cardin?
Senator Cardin.  Aye.
The Clerk.   Mr. Brown?  

The Clerk.   Mr. Bennet?  
Senator Bennet.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Casey?  
Senator Casey.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Warner?  

The Clerk.   Mr. Whitehouse?  

The Clerk.   Ms. Hassan?  
Senator Hassan.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Ms. Cortez Masto?  
Senator Wyden.   Aye by proxy.

The Clerk.   Ms. Warren?  

The Clerk.   Mr. Crapo?  
Senator Crapo.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Grassley?  
Senator Grassley.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Cornyn?  
Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.

The Clerk.   Mr. Thune?  
Senator Thune.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Burr?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
Senator Cassidy. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
Senator Lankford. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Young?
Senator Young. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
Senator Barrasso. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?
The Chairman. Aye.
The clerk will announce the vote.
The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 27 ayes, 1 nay.
The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. The
nomination is ordered favorably reported.

I thank my colleagues, and with that the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the meeting was concluded.]
STATEMENT OF:

Hon. Ron Wyden,
a U.S. Senator from Oregon,
chairman, Committee on Finance

Hon. Mike Crapo,
a U.S. Senator from Idaho