OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
THE NOMINATIONS OF SARAH BIANCHI, JAYME RAY WHITE, AND
MELANIE ANNE EGORIN
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021
U.S. Senate,
Committee on Finance,
Washington, DC.

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
9:50 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
Building, Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee)
presiding.

Present: Senators Stabenow, Cantwell, Brown, Casey,
Warner, Whitehouse, Hassan, Cortez Masto, Warren, Crapo,
Thune, Lankford, and Daines.

Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans,
Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; Sally Laing,
Senior International Trade Counsel; Ian Nicholson,
Investigator/Nominations Advisor; and Joshua Sheinkman,
Staff Director. Republican staff: Lincoln Foran,
Policy Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy
Director; 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. The Finance Committee will come to order. This morning the Committee takes up three nominations, two for Deputy Trade Representative, one for Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. It is going to be a busy morning. We have got a lot of committees conducting business. To assure that we have a quorum, we will have a vote on the nominations as soon as a quorum is present, and I will have a brief introductory statement, and Senator Crapo will have a brief introductory statement. Other members may have introductory statements they want to give, as well.

So today we will vote on three nominations for important roles within the Biden Administration. Dr. Melanie Egorin, nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health and Human Services. She is currently a top staff member on the House Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Neal joined the committee for last month's nomination hearing, and he talked about Dr. Egorin's professionalism, her diligence, and her ability to bring people together. He also spoke about her deep experience on health policy. If and when Dr. Egorin is
confirmed, we are going to keep her busy, from mental health care to prescription drug costs, to home- and community-based services. She will have many assignments.

The Finance Committee is hard at work on improving health care in America. It is going to take a lot of close collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services' Secretary Becerra and his team, and Dr. Egorin is going to have a big role to play in the months ahead.

Next up are two nominees for the position of Deputy U.S. Trade Representative under Ambassador Tai, Sarah Bianchi and Jayme White. Ms. Bianchi is a long-time member of the Biden economic team who has served in a number of different policy roles -- the Office of Management and Budget, the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of the Vice President, and she has also been a staff member.

Jayme White is a familiar face, of course, to all of us at the Finance Committee. He worked in our office in 2009 and has been the top trade and competitiveness advisor for Senate Finance Democrats since 2014. I know from experience that Jayme gets results. For example, he was the key staff member responsible for passing the Enforce Act in 2016, and it is now a key trade
enforcement tool that cuts through abuses to protect American workers and American jobs.

As a result of Jayme and Ambassador Tai's work during the previous Administration, the USMCA raised the bar over any previous agreement when it comes to labor and the environment. He is also, before we close on a matter of I think important competitiveness for our country, a leader on digital trade. He has also been active on transparency and accountability issues.

These two trade nominees are, in my view, going to build out an excellent trade team at the USTR. Both are highly experienced and knowledgeable. Based on the hearing, it is clear that both share Ambassador Tai's commitments to bringing both sides together around policies that, in my characterization, are about trade done right.

With Ambassador having been confirmed by a very close vote of 98 to nothing, it is clear there is a strong interest in bipartisan trade. So I intend to support both of the nominees. I hope colleagues will do the same.

Senator Crapo?
Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are here to vote on the nominations of Ms. Bianchi and Mr. White as Deputy U.S. Trade Representatives and on the nomination of Dr. Egorin as HHS Assistant Secretary for Legislation.

I intend to support all three nominations. However, today also highlights the Administration has yet to nominate anyone to fill a number of vacancies critical to ensuring that the United States has an effective trade policy.

With respect to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, those positions include the Chief IP Negotiator, the Chief Agriculture Negotiator, and the U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization.

To press forward to a successful economic recovery, we need now, more than ever, to tear down barriers between our businesses, farmers, and workers and the billions of customers beyond our borders.

With respect to my votes for the trade nominees, each stress they intend to work closely with Congress, and Mr. White further assured us at his confirmation hearing that he would do so promptly. I appreciate
that. But the Administration's continuing efforts to support a waiver for the WTO TRIPS Agreement to fail in regard to any consultation with Congress, prompt or otherwise, the decision to go it alone two months ago raises a number of significant concerns, including whether the Administration will even try to prevent extending any potential waiver to China and Russia.

We still do not know, and it is contrary to Ambassador Tai's own statement to this committee in May, whether she would consult before and after each round of negotiations. Ms. Bianchi and Mr. White, I expect that, if confirmed, you will relate to your Administration colleagues they need to do better, especially when the Constitution provides that Congress is not just the potential partner when it comes to its own trade agreements, it is the boss.

Dr. Egorin has expressed a clear understanding of the importance of a strong working relationship with Congress. As a veteran staffer of the White House -- of the House Ways and Means Committee, Dr. Egorin garnered the support and recommendation of both Chair Neal and Ranking Member Brady, as well as their respective staff.

I appreciated Dr. Egorin's commitment in the hearing and in answers to QFRs to being responsive and transparent, and I intend to support her nomination.
Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for holding this markup today.

The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Crapo. We are waiting for about three or four more members, and I want to recognize colleagues -- we will just go back and forth -- who would like to make short statements.

Anyone on the Democratic side wish to make a statement?

[No response.]

The Chairman. Anyone on the Republican side wishing to make a statement?

Senator Cantwell. Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. Senator Cantwell.

Senator Cantwell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad we are having this markup today, and very much appreciate -- I think Mr. White originally worked for my colleague, Congressman McDermott and then came and joined your team. I am glad that he has had experience on the Washington -- our Washington economy. One in three jobs are related to trade, and the fact that one in three jobs are related to trade means that we want to see aggressive trade policy. And this comes from a variety of sources, from manufacturing, from agriculture, from resolution on software issues, a whole variety of things.
The Administration could just have an agenda on digital trade and make success, and it would be very much a foot towards the future of resolving issues for a very big part of our economy.

So I hope Mr. White will bring that perspective and knowledge from the Pacific Northwest to the table with the Administration. I definitely think that our trade policies need to be done from the top rung of the ladder. That is, that the United States should be advocating trade policy in a variety of ways. The fact that 95 percent of consumers live outside of the United States, and if we want to grow our economy, we are going to have to grow the trade economy, and we are going to have to grow the export economy.

So I hope that we move these nominees quickly, and that we build the team at USTR. You know, Mr. Chairman, we worked with you on capacity building at USTR, on a resolution of these issues that we did with our colleague, the former Speaker of the House, to build capacity at USTR. That is, to give them more lawyers to resolve trade disputes. The results were phenomenal. The more people we had addressing trade injustices in the international community, the more success we had in getting our products or our exports in the door.

So I am all for USTR being an agency of the future
with as robust a muscle as they can possibly have, and
with as much attention as we can put into USTR. I mean
this sincerely. If 95 percent of consumers are outside
the United States, if our economy is going to grow by
exports, then USTR has to be an agency that is robust
enough to handle the disputes that happen at an
international basis.

So, anyway, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the
indulgence and thank you for letting me talk about how
important trade is to the Pacific Northwest. Thank you.

The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Cantwell. And you
have always been our go-to person on trade from the
Pacific Northwest, and growing things and making things,
and adding value to them and shipping all over the
planet. So a big thanks.

Colleagues, my sense is we are not going to have
enough people to vote, but I will say if Senators want
to make statements with respect to the nominees and then
we will vote off the floor. Do any colleagues on the
Republican side want to make statements about any of
these nominees?

Senator Thune. Mr. Chairman, so will a vote occur
off the floor?

The Chairman. Yes, we will vote off the floor and
give everybody notice. Okay, thank you all.
[Whereupon, at 10 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]
The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant to notice, on Thursday, July 13, 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.


Also present: Democratic staff: Michael Evans, Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel; and Joshua Sheinkman, Staff Director. Republican staff: Gregg Richard, Staff Director; and Jeffrey Wrase, Deputy Staff Director and Chief Economist.
The Chairman. Today we continue the open executive session from this morning to consider three nominations. The first nominee we will consider is Sarah Bianchi, nominated to be Deputy United States Trade Representative.

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

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 Cortez Masto. Aye.
The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
Senator Crapo. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
Senator Grassley. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
Senator Cornyn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
Senator Thune. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
Senator Burr.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Portman?

Senator Portman.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Toomey?

Senator Toomey.   Aye.

The Clerk.   Mr. Scott?

Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.

The Clerk.   Mr. Cassidy?

Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.

The Clerk.   Mr. Lankford?

Senator Lankford.   No.

The Clerk.   Mr. Daines?


The Clerk.   Mr. Young?

Senator Crapo.   Aye by proxy.

The Clerk.   Mr. Sasse?

Senator Sasse.   Aye.

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.

The next nomination is Jayme White to be Deputy United States Trade Representative. I would entertain a motion to favorably report the nomination of Mr. White.

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?
1 Senator Bennet. Aye.
2 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
3 Senator Casey. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
6 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
7 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
8 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
9 Senator Hassan. Aye.
10 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
12 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
14 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
15 Senator Crapo. Aye.
16 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
17 Senator Grassley. Aye.
18 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
19 Senator Cornyn. Aye.
20 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
21 Senator Thune. Aye.
22 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
Senator Burr. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
Senator Portman. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
Senator Toomey. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
Senator Lankford. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
Senator Daines. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Young?
Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?
Senator Sasse. Aye.
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 25 ayes, 3 nays.

The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. The nomination is ordered favorably reported. The next nomination is Melanie Egorin to be an Assistant Secretary of the Health and Human Services. I would entertain a motion to favorably report the nomination of Ms. Egorin.

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 Cortez Masto. Aye.
The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
Senator Crapo. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
Senator Grassley. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
Senator Cornyn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
Senator Thune. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Burr?

Senator Burr. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

Senator Portman. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

Senator Toomey. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

Senator Lankford. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Daines?


The Clerk. Mr. Young?

Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

Senator Sasse. Aye.

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 28 ayes, 0 nays.

The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. I thank my colleagues for their time. The committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:09 p.m., the meeting was concluded.]
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