

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF THE HONORABLE MARISA LAGO, OF NEW
3 YORK, TO BE DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE,
4 WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR; AND W. THOMAS REEDER, JR.,
5 OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT
6 GUARANTY CORPORATION; AND TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE
7 SENATE ADVISORY GROUP ON NEGOTIATIONS
8 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015
9 U.S. Senate,
10 Committee on Finance,
11 Washington, DC.

12 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at
13 10:12 a.m., in room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
14 Building, Hon. Orrin G. Hatch (chairman of the committee)
15 presiding.

16 Present: Senators Grassley, Crapo, Roberts, Enzi,
17 Cornyn, Thune, Burr, Isakson, Portman, Toomey, Coats,
18 Heller, Scott, Wyden, Stabenow, Cantwell, Nelson, Carper,
19 Cardin, Brown, Bennet, and Casey.

20 Also present: Republican Staff: Mark Prater, Deputy
21 Staff Director and Chief Tax Counsel; Jim Lyons, Tax
22 Counsel; and Nicholas Wyatt, Tax and Nominations
23 Professional Staff Member. Democratic staff: Joshua
24 Sheinkman, Staff Director; Michael Evans, General
25 Counsel; Todd Metcalf, Chief Tax Counsel; Kara Getz,

1 Senior Tax Counsel; and Anderson Heiman, International
2 Competitiveness and Innovation Advisor.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ORRIN G. HATCH, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM UTAH, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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4 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

5 Today the committee will consider, and hopefully
6 report favorably, the nominations of Marisa Lago, to be
7 Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, and Thomas Reeder, to
8 be the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty
9 Corporation.

10 I will be very brief in my opening remarks, as I
11 know Senators are anxious to move on from committee
12 business.

13 I just want to comment that I think these are both
14 highly qualified nominees. Their nominations have come
15 to the committee in regular order, and I believe they
16 both deserve to be confirmed. Toward that end, I hope
17 that all members of the committee will join me in voting
18 to report both nominations today.

19 With that, I will now recognize the ranking member,
20 Senator Wyden, for any opening comments that he would
21 like to make.

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

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4 Senator Wyden. Mr. Chairman, I am going to be
5 very, very brief. These are two extremely important
6 positions. Ms. Lago, I think, brings great expertise in
7 the trade area. I think we understand what is at stake,
8 whether you voted for TPA or whether you voted against
9 TPA, we are all united in looking for opportunities to
10 create more family wage jobs. That is what this is all
11 about. I think she will help us do that.

12 Mr. Thomas Reeder is nominated for an extremely
13 important position at the Pension Benefit Guaranty
14 Corporation. He is an alum of the Senate Finance
15 Committee. I urge that all members support both of the
16 nominees. I support them strongly, and I yield back.

17 The Chairman. Well, thank you. Are there any
18 other Senators wishing to comment on either nominee?

19 [No response].

20 The Chairman. If not, then we need to have 14
21 present. Do we have 14 in here? All right, we have 14.

22 If there are no further comments, I would entertain a
23 motion to favorably report the Lago and Reeder
24 nominations en banc.

25 Voice. So moved.

26 The Chairman. So moved. Does any Senator require

1 a recorded vote?

2 [No response.]

3 The Chairman. All right. If no Senators request a
4 recorded vote, all those in favor will say aye.

5 [A Chorus of Ayes].

6 The Chairman. All those who oppose will say no.

7 [No response.]

8 The Chairman. The ayes have it. Both nominations
9 are ordered favorably reported. A recorded vote has been
10 requested. We will pass over that.

11 Let me move to appoint members to SAGON. Finally,
12 the recently enacted trade promotion authority
13 legislation mandates the establishment of a Senate
14 Advisory Group on Negotiations.

15 The group actually convened for the first time
16 yesterday. Under the statute, the advisory group
17 includes the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate
18 committees with jurisdiction over provisions of the law
19 affected by trade agreement negotiations.

20 Such committees include the Finance, Agriculture,
21 Commerce, Judiciary, Foreign Relations, Banking, Small
22 Business, Homeland Security, and HELP Committees. The
23 statute also requires the inclusion of three additional
24 members of the Finance Committee to serve on the advisory
25 group.

26 Senator Wyden and I have decided that these members

1 should be chosen by seniority. Toward that end, I would
2 entertain a motion that Senators Crapo, Enzi, and Schumer
3 be designated to serve as members of the Senate Advisory
4 Group on Negotiations.

5 Senator Wyden. I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

6 The Chairman. If there is no further debate, the
7 committee will designate these Senators to serve on the
8 panel. Any further debate?

9 [No response.]

10 The Chairman. Well, I want to thank my colleagues
11 for working with us on both of today's sessions. This
12 has been yet another productive day for the Senate
13 Finance Committee.

14 With that, this session is adjourned.

15 [Whereupon, at 10:15 a.m. the meeting was
16 concluded.]

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PAGE

STATEMENT OF:

THE HONORABLE ORRIN G. HATCH
A United States Senator
from the State of Utah 3

THE HONORABLE RON WYDEN
A United States Senator
from the State of Oregon 4