OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING THE NOMINATIONS OF ARJUN MODY, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION; JEFFREY GOETTMAN, TO BE DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (AFRICA, WESTERN HEMISPHERE, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, ENVIRONMENT, LABOR, AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT; JULIE CALLAHAN, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT; AND T. MARCH BELL, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

U.S. Senate,

Committee on Finance,

Washington, DC.

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

Present: Senator Wyden.

Also present: Republican staff: Mary Kate Carter,

Trade Advisor; John Kashuba, Counsel; Molly Newell, Chief International Trade Counsel; John O'Hara, Trade Policy Director and Counsel; Gregg Richard, Staff Director; and Lara Rosner, Social Security Policy Advisor. Democratic staff: Sam Conchuaratt, Senior Policy Advisor; Rachel Lang, Advisor for Trade, International Competitiveness, and Innovation; Virginia Lenahan, Chief International Trade Counsel; Shade Streeter, Investigative Counsel; Milande Watson, Detailee; and Mattie Wheeler, Senior Trade Counsel.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Chairman. The committee will come to order. We meet today to favorably consider reporting the nominations of Arjun Modi, who is nominated to serve as the Deputy Commissioner for the Social Security Administration; Jeffrey Goettman, who is nominated to serve as the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative; Julie Callahan, who is nominated to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the USTR; and March Bell, who is nominated to serve as the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This morning's meeting will provide members with the opportunity to offer remarks on the nominees. We will notify members of a time and location later today to conduct the vote off the floor. And I believe we have agreed, Senator Wyden, that that would be at 2:15 in the President's Room.

Senator Wyden. That will be fine.

The Chairman. And then we will vote on the four nominees. Each of the nominees proved themselves to be well qualified at their hearing. Mr. Modi highlighted his extensive experience working with congressional leaders to build consensus and find solutions to

challenging policy issues. He would bring the same work ethic and collaborative approach to the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Goettman demonstrated his commitment to ensuring the resiliency of U.S. manufacturing supply chains, particularly for small businesses. I look forward to working with him, if confirmed, to ensure the formulation of trade policy that is both fair and economically sound.

Dr. Callahan brings decades of expertise to the USTR, as reflected by the over 80 trade associations supporting her nomination. If confirmed as Chief Agricultural Negotiator, she will ensure the important interests of American agriculture are championed on the world stage.

And lastly, Mr. Bell will utilize his extensive oversight experience if he is confirmed as the Inspector General to fight waste, fraud, and abuse, and to help keep Congress abreast of HHS's steps to save taxpayers' dollars.

I will be voting in favor of each of the nominees, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

I now recognize Senator Wyden for his remarks.

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

Senator Wyden. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Today, the committee votes on four more nominees that will be dealing with health and well-being as it relates to the betterment of the American people. Donald Trump campaigned on lowering costs for the American people, but as families know all across the land, if they go to the grocery store or the doctor's office, the costs are going up.

Whether it is hiking tariffs, gutting energy supply, or letting health insurance premiums skyrocket for millions, Donald Trump's presidency has really been a disaster for the wallets of working Americans. This committee ought to be focused on finding solutions to bring these costs down.

Instead, Republicans are rubber-stamping more nominees to carry out what I think, based on going to a grocery store -- which people will do this Thanksgiving holiday -- is a dangerous and expensive proposition when they were told their costs were going to go down.

Mr. Bell is nominated to serve as Inspector General at HHS. From day one, he has been an individual who has not done what is needed to root out fraud and

abuse in our government. After illegally firing nearly all Inspectors General, he replaced them with partisan operatives that have gone on to further sabotage independent oversight. Nothing Mr. Bell has provided to the committee demonstrates to me that he will not do more of the same.

Next is Mr. Arjun Mody, nominated to be Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. His future boss, Frank Bisignano, was given yet another job by Donald Trump, putting him neck-and-neck for most job titles alongside Marco Rubio. So, if confirmed, he would be expected to play a much bigger role at Social Security, while his boss takes on the CEO position at IRS.

From the jump, Mr. Bisignano and Donald Trump have worked to undermine the lifeline of Social Security. What is needed now more than ever is leadership at this crucial position when we are looking at the possibility of privatization that Trump and Bisignano have put us on. I do not believe that Mr. Mody has made the case that he'll provide that leadership.

Finally, the committee votes today on two more trade nominees. Julie Callahan is one, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, and Jeff Goettman, Deputy at USTR. It goes without saying that the Trump trade

agenda has been a mess. The tariffs change so much day to day, it makes your head spin. Farmers, ranchers, and small businesses beg to get off this economic roller coaster.

Meanwhile, families see the cost of their groceries and daily necessities skyrocket. As the country heads into the holiday season, parents are going to be forced to make some tough choices between how many toys end up under the Christmas tree and paying for other necessities like rent and groceries.

Christmas is about to be a lot slimmer this year, thanks to the tariffs. What is needed is leadership at USTR that is going to lower costs. Neither Dr. Callahan nor Mr. Goettman has demonstrated that they will stick up for the American people and farmers and small businesses. Dr. Callahan is a very experienced trade negotiator, but I have strong concerns about her failure to commit to this committee during her confirmation hearing that if confirmed, she would follow the law, not a blind order from Donald Trump.

Each of these nominees has been hand-selected by Donald Trump to carry out his agenda. This committee should be focused on bringing down costs for the public, not confirming more of Trump's nominees who will drive them up. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on these

nominees.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman. Thank you very much, Senator Wyden.

I see we have two or three other Senators in the room. If you are here for the nominees, you may make a statement now. If you are here for the hearing, we will proceed to that process.

Seeing that no one wants to make any further comments in executive session, we will recess the executive session, and we will reconvene at 2:15 in the President's Room off the floor for the votes on these four nominees.

[Whereupon, at 9:57 a.m., the meeting was recessed.]

The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant to notice, on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 2:15 p.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

We now have a quorum. I move that we favorably report the nomination of Arjun Moody.

Senator Grassley. Seconded.

The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

Senator Grassley. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

Senator Thune. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator Cassidy. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

Senator Lankford. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Young?

Senator Young. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

Senator Johnson. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?

Senator Tillis. Aye.

The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?

Senator Blackburn. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?

Senator Marshall. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?

Senator Wyden. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

Senator Cantwell. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

Senator Bennet. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator Whitehouse. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

Senator Hassan. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

Senator Warren. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

Senator Smith. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

Senator Luján. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

Senator Warnock. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

Senator Welch. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. Aye.

The Clerk will announce the vote.

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

The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. And the nomination is favorably reported.

We’ll now move to favorably report the nomination of Jeffrey Goettman.

The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

Senator Grassley. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

Senator Thune. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator Cassidy. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

Senator Lankford. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
Senator Daines. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Young?
Senator Young. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
Senator Barrasso. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
Senator Johnson. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
Senator Tillis. Aye.
The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
Senator Blackburn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
Senator Marshall. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
Senator Wyden. Nay.
The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
Senator Cantwell. Nay.
The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
Senator Bennet. Nay.
The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
Senator Wyden. Aye by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

Senator Hassan. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

Senator Warren. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

Senator Smith. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

Senator Luján. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

Senator Warnock. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

Senator Welch. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. Aye.

The Clerk will announce the vote.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 17 ayes and 10 nays.

The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. And the nomination is favorably reported.

We’ll now move to favorably report the nomination of Julie Callahan.

The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
Senator Grassley. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
Senator Cornyn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
Senator Thune. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
Senator Scott. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
Senator Cassidy. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
Senator Lankford. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
Senator Daines. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Young?
Senator Young. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
Senator Barrasso. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
Senator Johnson. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
Senator Tillis. Aye.
The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
Senator Blackburn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?

Senator Marshall. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?

Senator Wyden. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

Senator Cantwell. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

Senator Bennet. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

Senator Wyden. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

Senator Hassan. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

Senator Warren. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

Senator Smith. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

Senator Luján. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

Senator Warnock. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

Senator Welch. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. Aye.

The Clerk will announce the vote.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 17 ayes and 10 nays.

The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. And the nomination is favorably reported.

Finally, I move that we favorably report the nomination of Thomas Bell.

Senator Grassley. Seconded.

The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

Senator Grassley. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

Senator Thune. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator Cassidy. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

Senator Lankford. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
Senator Daines. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Young?
Senator Young. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
Senator Barrasso. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
Senator Johnson. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
Senator Tillis. Aye.
The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
Senator Blackburn. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
Senator Marshall. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
Senator Wyden. Nay.
The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
Senator Cantwell. Nay.
The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
Senator Bennet. Nay.
The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
Senator Whitehouse. Nay.
The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

Senator Hassan. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

Senator Warren. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

Senator Smith. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

Senator Luján. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

Senator Warnock. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

Senator Welch. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. Aye.

The Clerk will announce the vote.

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

The Chairman. The “ayes” have it. And the nomination is favorably reported.

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

[Whereupon, at 3:01 p.m., the meeting was

concluded.]

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