

BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION 1079, R.D.
JAMES OF MISSOURI TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR
CIVIL WORKS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

U.S. SENATE

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:54 a.m. in room
406, Dirksen Senate Building, the Honorable John Barrasso
[chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Senators Barrasso, Inhofe, Capito, Boozman,
Fischer, Rounds, Ernst, Sullivan, Carper, Merkley, Gillibrand,
Booker, and Harris.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOHN BARRASSO, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING

Senator Barrasso. Good morning.

I call this business meeting to order.

Some members have to leave in the next couple of minutes to get to votes in the Commerce Committee, so I am going to call the business meeting to order and thank all of you for coming on time.

We are here to consider the nomination of R.D. James of Missouri to be the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. After we vote, we will then conclude our business meeting and turn to our hearing focused on oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As the committee heard last week, R.D. James is well qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. He will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to this critically important role in addressing our Nation's infrastructure needs.

I applaud the President's nomination of such an accomplished American and dedicated public servant. I urge all my colleagues to vote yes on Mr. James' nomination.

At this time, I would like now to turn to the Ranking Member for his statement.

[The prepared statement of Senator Barrasso follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS CARPER, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Senator Carper. I would just say that R.D. James will be confirmed over my dead body.

[Laughter.]

Senator Carper. I said to him after the hearing, "R.D., you are going to be traveling a lot," because I think he has met with all of us and he said to each of us, "I'll come to your State." I said, just make sure you get credit for the frequent flyer miles you are going to be piling up because there are going to be a lot of them.

I think we are lucky with somebody as experienced as he is. Frankly, he is just a delight. I said to some of you, he reminded me of Sonny Perdue, a young Sonny Perdue. I am happy he is willing to do this; happy that his wife, Jenny I think is her name, is willing to share him; and send his nomination to the full Senate. Thank you.

I have a greater, a fuller statement that indicates I do not plan to block his nomination over my dead body.

[The prepared statement of Senator Carper follows:]

Senator Barrasso. That will be included in the record.

Senator Carper. Thank you.

Senator Barrasso. Now that enough members have arrived, I would like to move to a vote on the one item on today's agenda.

The Ranking Member and I have agreed to vote on the nominee by voice vote, but any member may choose to have his or her votes recorded after the voice vote.

I would like to call up Presidential Nomination 1079, R.D. James of Missouri to be the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

I move to approve and to report the nomination favorably to the Senate. Is there a second?

Senator Carper. Second.

Senator Inhofe. Second.

Senator Barrasso. All those in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Senator Barrasso. Opposed, nay.

[No audible response.]

Senator Barrasso. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

We have approved the nomination of Mr. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works which will be reported to the full Senate for approval.

The voting part of the business meeting is concluded. Any

member who wishes to submit a statement for the record regarding the nomination may do so.

With that, our business meeting is concluded.

[Whereupon, at 9:58 a.m., the committee proceeded to other business.]