

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

United States Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:03 a.m. in room 406, Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Honorable John Barrasso [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Senators Barrasso, Carper, Inhofe, Capito, Boozman, Wicker, Fischer, Moran, Rounds, Ernst, Sullivan, Cardin, Whitehouse, Merkley, Gillibrand, Markey, and Harris.

Also Present: Senator Shelby.

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. I want to thank everyone for coming.

We are here to consider two nominations and 19 General Services Administration resolutions.

We will be voting at roughly 10:20 to accommodate members' schedules, but before we vote we will debate and discuss the matters before us. The Majority will have 10 minutes to speak, beginning with my opening statement. The Minority will have 10 minutes to speak, beginning with the Ranking Member's opening statement. So, I would ask that the clock please be started on the Majority time and I will make a few brief comments, then reserve the balance of the Majority's time to make additional comments after the Minority's time has expired.

The Ranking Member may recognize those members of the Minority wishing to speak during the Minority's time.

After each side has used its time, we will move to votes as soon as a quorum is present.

After completion of the votes, I would be happy to recognize every member who still wishes to speak.

Today we consider the nomination of Kathleen Hartnett White to be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality, CEQ. President Trump intends to designate Ms. White as Chair of CEQ

upon her confirmation by the Senate. Ms. White's experience in environmental matters is broad. Neil Bradley, the Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, wrote this about Ms. White, that she is well suited to serving as Chair of the CEQ and has "wide-ranging experience relevant to the position."

I ask unanimous consent to enter his entire letter into the record. Without objection.

[The referenced information follows:]

Senator Barrasso. If confirmed, Ms. White will bring her extensive experience to the job at CEQ and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on her nomination.

We will also consider the nomination of Andrew Wheeler to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Over 25 years working in the environmental field, Mr. Wheeler has proven himself to be a well-qualified, experienced, and dedicated public servant. Twelve of those years he spent working at this Committee as this Committee's Clean Air Subcommittee Staff Director and Republican Staff Director and Chief Counsel.

We know what an invaluable contribution Mr. Wheeler will make in the protection of America's public health and safety as Deputy Administrator of the EPA. I urge my colleagues to vote on his nomination in a positive way as well.

We will also consider 19 resolutions to approve prospectuses providing for General Services Administration leases. The leases will provide office space for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the Department of Defense, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency for International Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Internal Revenue Service, Customs and Border Protection, the Department of State, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, National Institutes of Health, Securities and

Exchange Commission, and eight Department of Veterans Affairs locations.

I would like to reserve the balance of my time at this point and turn to the Ranking Member for his statement and for him to recognize members of the Minority as he sees fit.

[The prepared statement of Senator Barrasso follows:]

Senator Carper. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I am going to refrain from speaking at this moment and see if Senator Whitehouse would like to make some comments.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Senator Whitehouse. Mr. Chairman, thank you. A nominee who can't follow the thread from carbon pollution to ocean warming to sea level rise, who imagines science that is not there and ignores science that is there is a preposterous nominee.

There is a popular legend of the Emperor Caligula appointing his horse to the Roman Senate. Had he done that, it would have raised important questions. But the real questions would not have been about the horse. The horse was just a horse. The real questions would have been about the power of the Emperor Caligula and the spine of the Roman Senate. Discussing the merits of the horse would be pointless.

Approving this nominee for CEQ would be so preposterous that it would be like appointing Caligula's horse in that the real question becomes about the power of our fossil fuel emperors and the spine of the Senate. This is a moment in which the Senate takes its own measure. I guess we are about to see the answer.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Senator Whitehouse follows:]

Senator Carper. Senator Merkley, would you like to speak,
please?

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY, A UNITED STATES SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

Senator Merkley. Thank you very much.

Today we are on the verge of substantial disservice to the American people. Our job as Senators is to ensure the posts in the Federal Government are filled by qualified individuals who will do the right thing for the public, not execute the agenda of the fossil fuel industry. But today we are on voting on nominees who deny basic science, ignore public health risks, and are riddled with conflicts of interest.

Ms. White, for example, not only denies that we are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate disruption; she also tries to tell us more carbon pollution would be good for humanity. And she has demonized those who would advance renewable energy and diminish pollution as pagans and communists.

In her response to my written questions, she said she would "work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data." But she made this promise directly after casting doubt on the overwhelming scientific consensus that human greenhouse gas emissions are driving climate disruption.

She will be charged with running the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality; yet she denies there are environmental

issues left to address. She is choosing to ignore water contamination, air pollution, and toxic sites impacting communities across our Nation.

It seems unreal that we are considering a nominee so far beyond the fringe of even climate deniers; a woman who is not an advocate for human health and environmental protection, but is an advocate for carbon pollution and completely unqualified for this post.

Mr. Wheeler is the ultimate revolving door lobbyist, no way qualified to serve as Deputy Administrator of the EPA. As recently as August he lobbied for Murray Energy, a company with an extremely long history of environmental and labor violations. As a lobbyist for the company, Wheeler personally helped Murray Energy formulate a plan for rolling back EPA's environmental regulations and undermining the Agency's ability to carry out its mission of protecting the health of our planet and our people. He personally attended meetings held to discuss Energy Secretary Rick Perry's proposal to have the Federal Government subsidize putting coal in nuclear plants.

Time and again he has routinely put the interests of his clients above the interests and well-being of the American people. It is beyond comprehension how this individual, so beholden to the fossil fuel industry, so deeply imbedded in a record of fighting for private interest at the expense of public

welfare, could possibly serve in an agency tasked to protect our environment and our people.

I urge my colleagues to reject these nominees.

[The prepared statement of Senator Merkley follows:]

Senator Carper. I thank the Senator from Oregon.

The Senator from California?

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE KAMALA D. HARRIS, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator Harris. Thank you.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on the nominations of Ms. White and Mr. Wheeler. These nominations are the latest in a pattern by this Administration to send us candidates with work experience that directly conflicts the mission that they are supposed to execute.

Earlier this month we voted on a nominee whose job at EPA is to oversee the safety of chemicals. Yet, this same person spent their life promoting dangerous levels of chemicals in water and took money from the chemical industry to combat the mission of the EPA.

Today we are considering a fossil fuel lobbyist, Mr. Wheeler, to be the second in command at the EPA. We are also considering a fossil fuel industry supporter, Ms. Hartnett White, to head the Council on Environmental Quality, a nominee who has claimed that "the fossil fuel industry helped end slavery." So, apparently, she is putting the fossil fuel industry right up there with the 13th Amendment.

Now, let's be clear that extracting, transporting, and burning fossil fuels, such as coal and oil and gas, pollutes our environment. It harms the health of our families and communities, and it produces carbon dioxide that contributes to

climate change. If confirmed, Ms. White will be tasked with coordinating federal environmental efforts, including the implementation of the National Environmental Protection Act, that works to ensure that Americans can drink clean water and breathe clean air.

She even claimed that we "already cleaned up our environment enough." Well, I disagree. There are still far too many Americans who are exposed to dangerous environmental conditions.

With these nominees, the Administration is placing corporate interests over public health and the economic interests of Americans. It is dangerous, morally bankrupt, and undermines our ability to create jobs, economic success, and healthy communities for all Americans in the years and decades ahead.

In closing, in my home State of California, we have over 90 Superfund sites full of toxic chemicals, one of which is in Los Angeles's Harbor Gateway, right next to a Boys & Girls Club where young children play. We have not cleaned up our environment for these children. We cannot turn our backs on Americans' right to live in safe communities without toxins, and, unfortunately, these nominations have demonstrated no interest in meeting this goal.

My colleagues and I have a responsibility to those

Americans, and I urge them to join me in voting against these nominations.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Senator Harris follows:]

Senator Carper. Thank you.

The Senator from New York?

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Senator Gillibrand. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, I strongly oppose these two nominees, and I urge everyone to vote against them.

I am particularly troubled by Kathleen Hartnett White to serve as the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. Her extreme views, as my colleagues have noted, on issues ranging from climate change to the role of science to clean air regulations, make her unfit to serve. Mrs. White denies that extreme weather is getting worse as a result of climate change, despite all the evidence to the contrary. We do not need to look any further than this year's hurricane season to see how dangerously callous her point of view is.

My constituents in New York, as well as those in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, deserve someone leading the CEQ who will take climate change seriously and ensure that the Federal Government is doing everything we can to make our Country more resilient. And it is clear from her record in Texas, as well as her past writings and statements, that she will side again and again with her patrons in the fossil fuel industry, and not the health and well-being of our constituents.

I strongly urge a sense of conscience and a no vote.

[The prepared statement of Senator Gillibrand follows:]

Senator Carper. Thanks very much. I reserve my time.

Senator Markey.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. MARKEY, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Markey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Kathleen Hartnett White, from my perspective, on issue after issue, she has made statements and holds views that are not just outliers; they are outrageous. Her views aren't just incorrect; they are incomprehensible for someone charged to lead the coordination of all Federal environmental action. She has stated many times that "carbon dioxide is not a pollutant," in direct opposition to the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Massachusetts v. EPA*. She has written that "renewables are a false hope that simply won't work" and stated that renewable energy is inconsequential, even as we are going to have more than 200,000 megawatts and 500,000 workers in the wind and solar industries just within the next three years.

Under Ms. Hartnett White, CEQ would no longer stand for the Council on Environmental Quality; it would stand for Crazy Environmental Quackery. We cannot, at this time, have this type of person in charge of the environment in our Country.

I urge a no vote.

[The prepared statement of Senator Markey follows:]

Senator Carper. Thank you, Senator Markey.

Senator Barrasso. Senator Inhofe.

Senator Whitehouse. Mr. Chairman, before we go, could I just ask unanimous consent? I have a letter from 300 U.S. scientists opposing the nomination of Ms. Hartnett White. To quote them, "because one thing more dangerous than climate change is lying." And I would like to have that letter admitted to the record.

Senator Barrasso. Without objection.

[The referenced information follows:]

Senator Barrasso. Let me just say that comparing Ms. White to a horse, as one of our Democrat colleagues just did, to me is a new low. It is disturbing, it is demeaning, and it is dehumanizing.

Yesterday, President Obama's Assistant Secretary of Energy, Charles McConnell, wrote an op-ed in support of Ms. White, which I am going to introduce to the record as well. Mr. McConnell explained that "Listening to her critics, one might think she opposes all regulation. That is simply untrue, as her record shows." He goes on to say, and, again, this is President Obama's Assistant Secretary of Energy, "The fact is she has always supported and insisted on smart regulation." He goes on to say, "Kathleen led the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality during an extraordinary period of growth in the Texas population, and yet the State realized impressive declines in the levels of pollution during that time." He cites declines in ozone, declines in nitrogen oxide, decline in other pollutants. This is President Obama's Assistant Secretary of Energy.

I ask unanimous consent to enter this op-ed in the record as well. Without objection.

[The referenced information follows:]

Senator Barrasso. Senator Inhofe.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JAMES M. INHOFE, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Senator Inhofe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have had a lot of name calling here, and I am sure that makes everybody on the left feel better.

I don't know Kathleen White as well, obviously, as I do Andrew Wheeler, but you said exactly what I was going to say. We have people out there that are singing her praises, and you don't need to get down in the mud and name calling and these things.

But I do know Andrew Wheeler, and I know Andrew probably better than anyone except maybe his mother. Andrew Wheeler has been with me for so many years, actually, 14 years. He was a counselor in my personal office and then he was a staff director when I chaired the subcommittee on the Clean Air Subcommittee, and he was the one who, really, I relied on at that time. He has been the chief counsel for the EPW, for our Committee; he has been Majority and Minority staff director. We have worked on things together that are successful.

You know, we can be really proud on this Committee because, once you get through with all the name calling, we have done so many good things. We have accomplished things. I can remember when we used to have the chairman's meeting every Tuesday at 12:15, and the Republican leader would go around to all the

different chairmen, and when it got to me I would say, now, from the Committee that actually does things. That was us. We did it on a bipartisan basis.

Well, when we were working with Andrew Wheeler, we did the 1998 and the 2005 highway bills, huge bills; the Energy Policy Act of 2005; the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The Clear Skies Act, that was one that was early on. We couldn't get Democrats to join in on that, so that ended up not being successful. But the Clean Air Interstate Rule, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, greenhouse gas emission legislation.

Five out of those seven were successful, and they were all huge. And I have to say that I totally relied on Andrew Wheeler for the background, the knowledge, the expertise that he has demonstrated year after year after year on a very bipartisan basis. So, I am just hoping that you folks will remember we have had some successes in this Committee and a lot of those successes we have had were due to one staffer in particular, and that was Andrew Wheeler.

[The prepared statement of Senator Inhofe follows:]

Senator Barrasso. Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

Senator Carper.

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

Senator Carper. Thanks very much. I just want to start off on one positive note. We are going to be approving 19 General Services Administration lease prospectus resolutions today. Nineteen. Hopefully we will go 19 for 19. And one of the reasons why we are able to move forward is because GSA has acted with sufficient good faith to allow us to move forward today, and we are going to do that.

I want to say, with respect to Andrew Wheeler, I don't know him as well as Jim Inhofe does, but during his hearing and in response to the questions for the record, I thought that he may have demonstrated a more transparent and straight-forward approach to engaging with members of the Committee than any other Trump Administration EPA nominee thus far. I find that encouraging. I hope that you do too.

Senator Inhofe. There is not a lot of competition for that.

Senator Carper. Some would say that is a low bar.

[Laughter.]

Senator Carper. But it is a fact.

That is as close as I am going to get to name calling here today.

I want to be honest with you. I remain less encouraged

with Administrator Pruitt's progress in responding to the 31 letters requesting information that have been sent to him by our side of this Committee. Thus far, he has only adequately responded to 12 of those letters. That is better than zero, but six of the unanswered letters are more than six months old. More than six months old. That is just unacceptable.

Having said that, it is my understanding that EPA is making an effort to respond to more of our letters, and to do so soon, and we look forward to reviewing those responses soon. And the related documents we have been requesting and receiving responses to future oversight inquiries on a timely basis going forward.

I just want to thank my colleagues, a number of whom have been very vocal in calling on EPA to do just that, and I think the message is getting through.

Let me say this as clearly as I know how. If the responses that are being crafted by EPA now are completed in short order and are truly responsive, we will make progress on a number of nominations. If the nominations are further delayed or unresponsive, that progress may not be realized. I think we want progress. So thank you again for those of you who are speaking up.

I want to devote the remainder of my opening remarks this morning to the nomination of Kathleen Hartnett White to be the

White House's top environmental official. The importance of the Office of Environmental Quality cannot be overstated; it has historically played a vital role in coordinating the efforts of all Federal agencies on cost-cutting and important environmental issues. I know this from firsthand account from one of my earliest mentors, Russell Peterson, who served as the CEQ chair during both the Nixon and the Ford administrations; a Delawarean

Before serving in the White House, Russ Peterson had a distinguished career as a chemist and a leader at the DuPont Company and went on to serve as governor of our State from 1969 to 1973. And despite his being a Republican and me being a Democrat, Russ Peterson graciously served as one of my key mentors from the that we met in 1976 until his death in 2001. He spoke fondly of his time as CEQ Chair and he explained to me on more than one occasion the real importance and influence of the job. As CEQ chair, you are kind of like an orchestra leader; not playing the instruments, but making sure that everyone is playing from the same music and in harmony.

Make no mistake about it, CEQ's role and responsibility, their influence is considerable and consequential; it has been for many years. That is why I am deeply disappointed at the nomination of Ms. White, whose views I believe are extreme, whose words are staggeringly inappropriate, and who shows remarkable disrespect for science, the environmental laws that

are on the books, and our Federal Government.

I want to just take a minute to look at her record.

Ms. White refers to renewable energy sources as false hope and parasitic. She has called repeatedly for the repeal of solar and wind tax credits. She has also called for the repeal of the Renewable Fuel Standards repeatedly over the past decade, stating the program is counterproductive, ethnically offensive, and destructive.

Ms. White has compared the views of those who believe that human activity is causing climate change to be those of pagans and communists. Talk about name calling. These are her words; these are not mine. She has suggested that policies to reduce global warming pollution could lead to poverty and even to concentration camps. She has said several times that fossil fuels ended slavery.

Ms. White consistently denies the cause and impacts of climate change. She has repeatedly stated that we would benefit from more carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, not less. She has actively supported groups that promote this extreme point of view.

Moreover, Ms. White has repeatedly contradicted the accepted views of previously Republican and Democratic administrations alike about the health effects of air pollution, saying that "people do not die of particulate matter levels";

that "ozone isn't harmful unless you put your mouth over the tailpipe of a car for eight hours a day"; and that the Clean Air Act no longer provides an effective scientifically credible or economically viable means of air quality management.

Nothing that Ms. White said at her hearing or in response to post-hearing questions provides me with as much as a shred of confidence in her suitability for almost any Senate-confirmed role, let alone one that carries with it the responsibility of chairing the Council on Environmental Quality in this or some other administration.

If she is confirmed to serve in this important leadership position, I believe we will have failed in our responsibility as United States Senators to provide advice and consent, and we will have failed the people of this Country. I cannot urge my colleagues more strongly to oppose her nomination.

We sat here, Mr. Chairman -- I will conclude with this. We sat here for her hearing. I have been sitting through hearings here for 17 years. It was painful to watch. It was painful to watch and it was painful to hear, and we should not inflict this pain on the people of this Country.

Thanks so much.

[The prepared statement of Senator Carper follows:]

Senator Barrasso. Thank you very much, Senator Carper.

Anyone else wanting to make a statement on this as we wait for the final member for the vote?

Senator Cardin.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Senator Cardin. I was going to wait until after the vote, but I will be very brief.

I want to explain my strong opposition to Ms. Hartnett White for the position that she has been nominated to. She authored an article indicating one of the worst ways to celebrate Earth Day is the signing of the Paris Accords.

I had the opportunity to be with four of our colleagues in Bonn two weeks ago to try to represent the U.S. view that we want to be part of the international community and the international community's efforts to deal with global climate change. We are now the only Country that has announced that we will not be part of these discussions.

And I have had conversations with members of the Administration, including the Secretary of State, who recognizes the importance for America to be part of this process. I want to make sure that we have people in the Administration who understand the importance of the U.S. global engagement, and Ms. Hartnett White clearly does not fall into that category, and that is why I oppose her nomination.

[The prepared statement of Senator Cardin follows:]

Senator Barrasso. Thank you, Senator Cardin.

Now that the Majority and Minority have had an opportunity to debate and discuss the issues and members have arrived, I would like to move the votes on the items of today's agenda. We will defer additional statements until the end of voting, and I will be happy to recognize any additional members still wishing to speak.

The Ranking Member and I have agreed to bring up the nominees to be a member of the CEQ and the Deputy Administrator of EPA for separate roll call votes. The Ranking Member has requested that each of these nominees receive a separate roll call vote. The Ranking Member and I have agreed to vote on the 19 GSA resolutions en bloc by voice vote, but members may choose to have their votes recorded for a specific resolution in that bloc after the voice vote.

To begin, I would like to call up Presidential Nomination 1101, Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a member of the Council of Environmental Quality. I move to approve and report the nomination favorably to the Senate. Is there a second?

Senator Inhofe. Second.

Senator Barrasso. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Booker?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Boozman?

Senator Boozman. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Capito?

Senator Capito. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

Senator Cardin. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

Senator Carper. No.

The Clerk. Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mrs. Ernst?

Senator Ernst. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Fischer?

Senator Fischer. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Gillibrand?

Senator Gillibrand. No.

The Clerk. Ms. Harris?

Senator Harris. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Inhofe?

Senator Inhofe. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Markey?

Senator Markey. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Moran?

Senator Moran. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Rounds?

Senator Rounds. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Shelby?

Senator Shelby. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sullivan?

Senator Sullivan. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Wicker?

Senator Wicker. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

Senator Barrasso. Aye.

The Clerk will report.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 11, the nays are 10.

Senator Barrasso. We have approved the nomination of Ms. White to be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality, which will be reported to the full Senate for approval.

I would like to now call up Presidential Nomination 1084, Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. I move to approve and report the nomination favorably to the Senate. Is there a second?

Senator Inhofe. Second.

Senator Barrasso. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Booker?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Boozman?

Senator Boozman. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Capito?

Senator Capito. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

Senator Cardin. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

Senator Carper. No.

The Clerk. Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mrs. Ernst?

Senator Ernst. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Fischer?

Senator Fischer. Yes.

The Clerk. Mrs. Gillibrand?

Senator Gillibrand. No.

The Clerk. Ms. Harris?

Senator Harris. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Inhofe?

Senator Inhofe. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Markey?

Senator Markey. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Moran?

Senator Moran. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Rounds?

Senator Rounds. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Shelby?

Senator Shelby. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sullivan?

Senator Sullivan. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator Carper. No, by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Wicker?

Senator Wicker. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

Senator Barrasso. Aye.

The Clerk will report.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 11 and the nays are

10.

Senator Barrasso. We have approved the nomination of Mr.

Wheeler to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, which will be reported to the full Senate for approval.

I would now like to call up 19 resolutions to approve prospectuses providing for the General Services Administration leases en bloc. I move to approve 19 General Services Administration resolutions en bloc.

Is there a second?

Senator Carper. Second.

Senator Barrasso. All those in favor say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Senator Barrasso. Opposed, no.

[No audible response.]

Senator Barrasso. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. We have approved 19 GSA resolutions.

The voting part of the business meeting is concluded. I will be happy to stay and recognize any member who wishes to make additional statements on the nominations or on the resolutions.

I ask unanimous consent that the staff have authority to make technical and conforming changes to each of the matters approved today.

If no one else wants to make a statement, with that, and no other business coming before the Committee, the business meeting

is concluded and adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:32 a.m. the committee was adjourned.]