

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

UNITED STATES SENATE

BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

Washington, D.C.

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BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, July 28, 2025

U.S. Senate
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 6:01 p.m., in Room S-216, President's Room, Hon. John Boozman, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Boozman [presiding], McConnell, Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Tuberville, Justice, Grassley, Thune, Fischer, Moran, Klobuchar, Bennet, Smith, Durbin, Warnock, and Slotkin.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOOZMAN

2 Chairman Boozman. I call this business meeting of the
3 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to
4 order.

5 The purpose of this meeting is to consider the
6 nominations Mr. Michael Boren to serve as Under Secretary of
7 Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, and Mr.
8 Richard Fordyce to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for
9 Farm Production and Conservation.

10 I support both of these individuals. I believe Mr.
11 Boren's leadership and background will ensure the Forest
12 Service is efficient and effective in its mission, and I
13 believe Mr. Fordyce's prior experience as the Missouri State
14 Director of Agriculture and FSA Administrator will serve him
15 well as he leads the FPAC mission area.

16 I now recognize the Senator from Minnesota, Senator
17 Klobuchar, for any comments she would like to make.

1 STATEMENT OF SENATOR KLOBUCHAR

2 Senator Klobuchar. Thank you, Mister Chair. I am
3 deeply concerned, of course, about the news this week about
4 this reorganization plan. I think it was chaotic and
5 shortsighted, and suddenly we find out half the staff at the
6 USDA is going to be flung into five different states,
7 including people from our own states that will be told to
8 leave.

9 I am very pleased that you are doing the oversight
10 hearing on such short notice.

11 I think all Democrats are opposing Mr. Boren's
12 nomination for Under Secretary for Natural Resources and
13 Environment with concerns about his background.

14 Nevertheless, we know how important it is to work on
15 the Forest Service to address wildfires and the like.

16 On Mr. Fordyce, I will be supporting him for Under
17 Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation and we
18 believe it is really important to work with him on customer
19 service for farmers during this uncertain time.

20 Thank you.

21 Chairman Boozman. Thank you, Senator Klobuchar.

22 Seeing a quorum is present, is there a motion to
23 proceed to consider the nominations?

24 Senator Bennet. I so move.

25 Chairman Boozman. Thank you. Is there a second?

1 Senator Hoeven. Second.

2 Chairman Boozman. Thank you. Beginning with the
3 nomination of Michael Boren, the clerk will call the roll.

4 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

5 Senator Klobuchar. No.

6 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

7 Senator Bennet. No.

8 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

9 Senator Smith. No.

10 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

11 Senator Durbin. No.

12 The Clerk. Senator Booker?

13 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Senator Luján?

15 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?

17 Senator Warnock. No.

18 The Clerk. Senator Welch?

19 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

20 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?

21 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

22 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?

23 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

24 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?

25 Senator Slotkin. No.

1 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?
2 Senator McConnell. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?
4 Senator Hoeven. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?
6 Senator Ernst. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?
8 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?
10 Senator Marshall. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?
12 Senator Tuberville. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Senator Justice?
14 Senator Justice. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?
16 Senator Grassley. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Senator Thune?
18 Senator Thune. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?
20 Senator Fischer. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Senator Moran?
22 Senator Moran. Aye.
23 The Clerk. Senator Boozman?
24 Chairman Boozman. Aye.
25 The Clerk. The ayes are 12, the nays are 11.

1 Chairman Boozman. On this vote, the ayes are 12 and
2 the nays are 11. The nomination is approved.

3 We will now proceed to considering the nomination of
4 Richard Fordyce. The clerk will call the roll.

5 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

6 Senator Klobuchar. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

8 Senator Bennet. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

10 Senator Smith. No.

11 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

12 Senator Durbin. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Senator Booker?

14 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

15 The Clerk. Senator Luján?

16 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

17 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?

18 Senator Warnock. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Senator Welch?

20 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

21 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?

22 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

23 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?

24 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

25 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?

1 Senator Slotkin. Aye.
2 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?
3 Senator McConnell. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?
5 Senator Hoeven. Aye.
6 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?
7 Senator Ernst. Aye.
8 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?
9 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.
10 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?
11 Senator Marshall. Aye.
12 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?
13 Senator Tuberville. Aye.
14 The Clerk. Senator Justice?
15 Senator Justice. Aye.
16 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?
17 Senator Grassley. Aye.
18 The Clerk. Senator Thune?
19 Senator Thune. Aye.
20 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?
21 Senator Fischer. Aye.
22 The Clerk. Senator Moran?
23 Senator Moran. Aye.
24 The Clerk. Senator Boozman?
25 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

1 The Clerk. The ayes are 19, the nays are 4.

2 Senator Boozman. On this vote, the ayes are 19 and the
3 nays are 4. The nomination is approved.

4 Thank you. The business meeting is now adjourned.

5 [Whereupon, at 6:05 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

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