

Stenographic Transcript  
Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING  
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## 1 BUSINESS MEETING

2  
3 Monday, November 3, 20254  
5 U.S. Senate  
6 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
7 Washington, D.C.  
89 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 6:03 p.m., in  
10 Room S-216, President's Room, Hon. John Boozman, Chairman of  
11 the Committee, presiding.12 Present: Senators Boozman [presiding], McConnell,  
13 Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Tuberville, Justice,  
14 Grassley, Thune, Fischer, Moran, Klobuchar, Bennet, and  
15 Smith.  
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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 of Dr. Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to serve as  
7 the Under Secretary of Food Safety for the Department of  
8 Agriculture; Representative Yvette Herrell, of New Mexico,  
9 to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional  
10 Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department  
11 of Agriculture; and Mr. John Walk, of Virginia, to be  
12 Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture.

13           Additionally, today we will consider H.R. 4550, the  
14 United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.

15           Regarding the nominees being considered today, I  
16 support these three individuals, and believe their  
17 qualifications and experience in law, academia, the private  
18 sector, and in Federal Government make them well suited for  
19 these important roles at USDA.

20           I now recognize the distinguished Senator from  
21 Minnesota, Senator Klobuchar, for any comments she would  
22 like to make.

23

24

25



## 1 STATEMENT OF SENATOR KLOBUCHAR

2 Senator Klobuchar. Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
3 vote and a number of our members reflect the time that we  
4 are in at this moment. While the nominees, Dr. Brashears  
5 has a career in public service, Representative Herrell, of  
6 course, does, and Mr. Walk have several good qualifications  
7 for these jobs, our concern is much deeper than that. The  
8 nominees testified, but we still have not gotten the  
9 bipartisan briefings that we have asked for during the  
10 shutdown, in contrast to what we have seen in previous  
11 shutdowns.

12 Most importantly, while the courts have had to order  
13 the Administration to provide food assistance, and they have  
14 now said they will do because of the court order, \$5  
15 billion, they are refusing to do what the court said they  
16 could do, which is simply transfer funds to make this work.

17 And so, because of this, and honestly, unrelated to  
18 some of these nominees, I am voting no on these nominees.

19 Chairman Boozman. The Committee will proceed to  
20 consider H.R. 4550, the United States Grain Standards  
21 Reauthorization Act of 2025. I offer a bipartisan amendment  
22 in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4550, which has been  
23 distributed, and ask for unanimous consent that the  
24 amendment be adopted and considered as original text for the  
25 purpose of amendment..



1 Without objection, so ordered.

2 Are there any Senators who wish to debate or offer  
3 amendments to debate on this bill?

4 Senator Klobuchar. I just want to say that we continue  
5 to support this bipartisan legislation. It is very  
6 important.

7 Senator Boozman. Seeing no others, and noting that a  
8 reporting quorum is present, I move that H.R. 4550, as  
9 amended, be reported. The Clerk will call the roll.

10 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

11 Senator Klobuchar. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

13 Senator Bennet. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

15 Senator Smith. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

17 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

18 The Clerk. Senator Booker?

19 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

20 The Clerk. Senator Luján?

21 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

22 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?

23 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.

24 The Clerk. Senator Welch?

25 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.



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



1 Senator Fischer. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Senator Moran?

3 Senator Moran. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Chairman Boozman?

5 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

6 The Clerk. The ayes are 23, the nays are 0.

7 Chairman Boozman. On this vote the yeas are 23 and the  
8 nays are 0. H.R. 4550, as amended, is reported favorably.

9 Let's proceed with the nominations. We will start with  
10 Dr. Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to serve as the Under  
11 Secretary of Food Safety for the Department of Agriculture.

12 The Clerk will call the roll.

13 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

14 Senator Klobuchar. No.

15 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

16 Senator Bennet. No.

17 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

18 Senator Smith. No.

19 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

20 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

21 The Clerk. Senator Booker?

22 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

23 The Clerk. Senator Luján?

24 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

25 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?



1 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Senator Welch?

3 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?

5 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?

7 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?

9 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?

11 Senator McConnell. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?

13 Senator Hoeven. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?

15 Senator Ernst. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?

17 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?

19 Senator Marshall. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?

21 Senator Tuberville. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Senator Justice?

23 Senator Justice. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?

25 Senator Grassley. Aye.





1 The Clerk. Senator Thune?

2 Senator Thune. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?

4 Senator Fischer. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Senator Moran?

6 Senator Moran. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Chairman Boozman?

8 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

9 The Clerk. The ayes are 12, the nays are 11.

10 Chairman Boozman. The ayes are 12 and the nays are 11.

11 The nomination is approved.

12 We will now proceed to considering the nomination of  
13 Yvette Herrell, of New Mexico, to serve as the Assistant  
14 Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental  
15 Affairs for the Department of Agriculture. The Clerk will  
16 call the roll.

17 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

18 Senator Klobuchar. No.

19 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

20 Senator Bennet. No.

21 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

22 Senator Smith. No.

23 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

24 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

25 The Clerk. Senator Booker?



1 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
2 The Clerk. Senator Luján?  
3 Senator Klobuchar. Aye by proxy.  
4 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?  
5 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
6 The Clerk. Senator Welch?  
7 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
8 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?  
9 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
10 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?  
11 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
12 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?  
13 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
14 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?  
15 Senator McConnell. Aye.  
16 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?  
17 Senator Hoeven. Aye.  
18 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?  
19 Senator Ernst. Aye.  
20 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?  
21 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.  
22 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?  
23 Senator Marshall. Aye.  
24 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?  
25 Senator Tuberville. Aye.



1 The Clerk. Senator Justice?

2 Senator Justice. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?

4 Senator Grassley. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Senator Thune?

6 Senator Thune. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?

8 Senator Fischer. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Senator Moran?

10 Senator Moran. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Chairman Boozman?

12 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

13 The Clerk. The ayes are 13, the nays are 10.

14 Chairman Boozman. The ayes are 13 and the nays are 10.

15 The nomination is approved.

16 We will now proceed to considering the nomination of  
17 Mr. John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the  
18 Department of Agriculture. The Clerk will call the roll.

19 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

20 Senator Klobuchar. No.

21 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

22 Senator Bennet. No.

23 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

24 Senator Smith. No.

25 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?



1 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
2 The Clerk. Senator Booker?  
3 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
4 The Clerk. Senator Luján?  
5 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
6 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?  
7 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
8 The Clerk. Senator Welch?  
9 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
10 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?  
11 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
12 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?  
13 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
14 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?  
15 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.  
16 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?  
17 Senator McConnell. Aye.  
18 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?  
19 Senator Hoeven. Aye.  
20 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?  
21 Senator Ernst. Aye.  
22 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?  
23 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.  
24 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?  
25 Senator Marshall. Aye.



1 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?

2 Senator Tuberville. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Senator Justice?

4 Senator Justice. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?

6 Senator Grassley. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Senator Thune?

8 Senator Thune. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?

10 Senator Fischer. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Senator Moran?

12 Senator Moran. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Chairman Boozman?

14 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

15 The Clerk. The ayes are 12, the nays are 11.

16 Chairman Boozman. The ayes are 12 and the nays are 11.

17 The nomination is approved.

18 Thank you all for your patience today, and with that

19 the business meeting is now adjourned.

20 [Whereupon, at 6:11 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

21

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25



**WORD INDEX**

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