

Stenographic Transcript  
Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING  
1029 VERMONT AVE, NW  
10TH FLOOR  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
(202) 289-2260  
[www.aldersonreporting.com](http://www.aldersonreporting.com)

## BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

U.S. Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 12:35 p.m., in Room S-219, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Stabenow [presiding], Brown, Klobuchar, Bennet, Smith, Booker, Luján, Welch, Fetterman, Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Marshall, Grassley, Thune, and Fischer.

1                   OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR STABENOW

2           Chairwoman Stabenow: I now call to order a business  
3 meeting of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
4 Forestry.

5           Today we consider the nominations of Dr. Basil Gooden, of  
6 Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural  
7 Development, and the Honorable Summer Mersinger, of South  
8 Dakota, to serve a second term as a Commissioner of the  
9 Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

10          Both nominees are very qualified and supported by a wide  
11 range of stakeholders.

12          I support these two nominees and hope we can move forward  
13 quickly.

14          Senator Boozman, do you have anything you'd like to add?

15          Senator Boozman: We very much support the nominations and  
16 look forward to getting them confirmed as soon as possible.

17          Chairwoman Stabenow: Yes, hopefully we can do that next  
18 week, that would be great.

19          As there is no further debate, we can move to the votes.  
20 Per agreement with the Ranking Member, we are going to take a  
21 roll call vote to report these nominations. First, Dr. Basil  
22 Gooden, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural  
23 Development.

24          The Clerk will call the roll.

25          The Clerk: Senator Boozman?

1 Senator Boozman: Aye.

2 The Clerk: Senator McConnell?

3 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

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 Boozman: Aye by proxy

10 The Clerk: Senator Marshall?

11 Senator Marshall: Aye

12 The Clerk: Senator Tuberville?

13 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Senator Braun?

15 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

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 Brown?

23 Senator Brown: Aye.

24 The Clerk: Senator Klobuchar?

25 Senator Klobuchar: Aye.

1 The Clerk: Senator Bennet?

2 Senator Bennet: Aye.

3 The Clerk: Senator Gillibrand?

4 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy

5 The Clerk: Senator Smith

6 Senator Smith: Aye.

7 The Clerk: Senator Durbin?

8 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy

9 The Clerk: Senator Booker?

10 Senator Booker: Aye.

11 The Clerk: Senator Luján?

12 Senator Luján: Aye.

13 The Clerk: Senator Warnock?

14 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy.

15 The Clerk: Senator Welch?

16 Senator Welch: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Senator Fetterman?

18 Senator Fetterman: Aye.

19 The Clerk: Chairwoman Stabenow?

20 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye.

21 The Clerk: The ayes are 23. The nays are 0.

22 Chairwoman Stabenow: The ayes have it. The nomination of

23 Dr. Basil Gooden, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural

24 Development, is ordered reported favorably.

25

1 We will now take a roll call vote on the Honorable Summer  
2 Mersinger, to serve a second term as a Commissioner of the  
3 Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

4 The clerk will call the roll.

5 The Clerk: Senator Boozman?

6 Senator Boozman: Aye.

7 The Clerk: Senator McConnell?

8 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

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 Boozman: Aye by proxy.

15 The Clerk: Senator Marshall?

16 Senator Marshall: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Senator Tuberville?

18 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Senator Braun?

20 Senator Boozman: Aye by proxy.

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 Brown?

3 Senator Brown: Aye.

4 The Clerk: Senator Klobuchar?

5 Senator Klobuchar: Aye.

6 The Clerk: Senator Bennet?

7 Senator Bennet: Aye.

8 The Clerk: Senator Gillibrand?

9 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy.

10 The Clerk: Senator Smith?

11 Senator Smith: Aye.

12 The Clerk: Senator Durbin?

13 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Senator Booker?

15 Senator Booker: Aye.

16 The Clerk: Senator Luján?

17 Senator Luján: Aye.

18 The Clerk: Senator Warnock?

19 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye by proxy.

20 The Clerk: Senator Welch?

21 Senator Welch: Aye.

22 The Clerk: Senator Fetterman?

23 Senator Fetterman: Aye.

24 The Clerk: Chairwoman Stabenow?

25 Chairwoman Stabenow: Aye.

1           The Clerk:   The ayes are 23. The nays are 0.

2           Chairwoman Stabenow:   The ayes have it.   The nomination of  
3 the Honorable Summer Mersinger, to serve as a Commissioner of  
4 the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, is ordered reported  
5 favorably.

6           The business meeting is adjourned.

7           [Whereupon, at 12:47pm, the business meeting was  
8 adjourned.]

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25