

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

UNITED STATES SENATE

BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING
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1 BUSINESS MEETING

2
3 Monday, May 5, 20254
5 U.S. Senate
6 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
7 Washington, D.C.
89 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 5:53 p.m., in
10 Room 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, Welch, and
15 Schiff.
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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 Judge Stephen Vaden, of Tennessee, to serve
7 as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture,
8 and Tyler Clarkson, of Virginia, to serve as the General
9 Counsel for the Department of Agriculture.

10 I support both of these individuals, and believe their
11 qualifications and background in law, the private sector,
12 and Federal Government make them well suited for these
13 roles.

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

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1 STATEMENT OF SENATOR KLOBUCHAR

2 Senator Klobuchar. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

3 We are focused on helping rural America right now
4 because we are concerned about what is going on. As you
5 know for the Secretary's vote, the Democrats joined you in
6 voting for her. We do have concerns about these nominees'
7 past records so we will not be voting for them. But again,
8 our main goal right now is to do something about the tariffs
9 and get a farm bill done.

10 Chairman Boozman. Thank you, Senator Klobuchar.

11 Seeing a quorum is present, is there a motion to
12 proceed to consider the nominations?

13 Senator Grassley. Mr. Chairman, I so move.

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

15 Senator Tuberville. I second.

16 Chairman Boozman. Thank you. Beginning with the
17 nomination of Judge Stephen Vaden, the clerk will call the
18 roll.

19 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

20 Senator Klobuchar. No.

21 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

22 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

23 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

24 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

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 Welch. No.

10 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?

11 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?

13 Senator Schiff. No.

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. Senator Boozman?

14 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

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

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

18 We will now proceed to considering the nomination of
19 Tyler Clarkson to be General Counsel. The clerk will call
20 the roll.

21 The Clerk. Senator Klobuchar?

22 Senator Klobuchar. No.

23 The Clerk. Senator Bennet?

24 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

25 The Clerk. Senator Smith?

1 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Senator Durbin?

3 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Senator Booker?

5 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Senator Luján?

7 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Senator Warnock?

9 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Senator Welch?

11 Senator Welch. No.

12 The Clerk. Senator Fetterman?

13 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Senator Schiff?

15 Senator Schiff. No.

16 The Clerk. Senator Slotkin?

17 Senator Klobuchar. No by proxy.

18 The Clerk. Senator McConnell?

19 Senator McConnell. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Senator Hoeven?

21 Senator Hoeven. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Senator Ernst?

23 Senator Ernst. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Senator Hyde-Smith?

25 Senator Hyde-Smith. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Senator Marshall?

2 Senator Marshall. Aye.

3 The Clerk. Senator Tuberville?

4 Senator Tuberville. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Senator Justice?

6 Senator Justice. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Senator Grassley?

8 Senator Grassley. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Senator Thune?

10 Senator Thune. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Senator Fischer?

12 Senator Fischer. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Senator Moran?

14 Senator Moran. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Senator Boozman?

16 Chairman Boozman. Aye.

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

18 Chairman Boozman. On this vote, the ayes are 12 and

19 the nays are 11. The nomination is approved.

20 Thank you. The business meeting is now adjourned.

21 [Whereupon, at 6:00 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

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