

1 BUSINESS MEETING ON PENDING NOMINATIONS

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3 TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

4 United States Senate,
5 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry,
6 Washington, D.C.

7 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:14 a.m.,
8 in Room S-216, The Capitol, Hon. Pat Roberts, Chairman of
9 the Committee, presiding.

10 Present or submitting a statement: Senators Roberts,
11 McConnell, Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Perdue,
12 Grassley, Thune, Fischer, Stabenow, Brown, Klobuchar,
13 Bennet, Casey, and Durbin.

14 OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN ROBERTS

15 Chairman Roberts. I now call to order a business
16 meeting of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
17 and Forestry.

18 Today we consider the nominations of Ms. Naomi Earp,
19 Dr. Scott Hutchins, and Dr. Mindy Brashears.

20 I support all three of these nominations.

21 I now recognize the Ranking Member for any comments she
22 may have.

23 OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR STABENOW

24 Senator Stabenow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 First, a couple of comments. As you know, I have

1 expressed concerns about the USDA's decision to appoint
2 these three nominees as deputies at the Department, which
3 has really circumvented the Senate confirmation process.

4 Additionally, I previously expressed concerns with Ms.
5 Earp's nomination. She has worked with the Committee to
6 clarify her past statements and has committed to working
7 proactively with the Forest Service on sexual harassment
8 issues. I will support her today, but I am going to
9 continue to monitor her work very closely at the Department
10 as her nomination moves to the Senate floor.

11 I also will be supporting the other two nominees.

12 Chairman Roberts. I appreciate the comments by the
13 distinguished Ranking Member. Ms. Earp has been very
14 forthcoming in trying to clarify some of her statements.

15 Is there a second?

16 Senator Hoeven. Second.

17 Chairman Roberts. All those in favor, say aye.

18 [Chorus of ayes.]

19 Chairman Roberts. All those opposed, say no.

20 Senator Bennet. No.

21 Chairman Roberts. The ayes have it. The nomination of
22 Ms. Earp is approved.

23 Senator Stabenow. I think we have at least one member
24 who would like to be recorded as no.

25 Senator Bennet. I would like to be recorded as a no.

1 Chairman Roberts. Next, we have the nomination of Dr.
2 Scott Hutchins for the position of Under Secretary of
3 Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. Is
4 there a second?

5 Senator Thune. Second.

6 Senator Bennet. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I would like
7 to be recorded as a no on Ms. Earp.

8 Chairman Roberts. On a voice vote.

9 Senator Bennet. I leave it in the Chairman's
10 discretion. That is fine. Thank you.

11 Senator Stabenow. Yes. Record that there were no
12 votes.

13 Second.

14 Chairman Roberts. All those in favor, say aye.

15 [Chorus of ayes.]

16 Chairman Roberts. All those opposed, say nay.

17 [No response.]

18 Chairman Roberts. The ayes have it and the nomination
19 of Dr. Hutchins is approved.

20 Finally, I move to approve the nomination of Mindy
21 Brashears for the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture
22 for Food Safety. Is there a second?

23 Senator Hoeven. Second.

24 Chairman Roberts. All those in favor, say aye.

25 [Chorus of ayes.]

1 Chairman Roberts. All those opposed, nay.

2 Senator Durbin. No.

3 Chairman Roberts. The ayes have it. The nomination of
4 Dr. Brashears is approved.

5 The nominations of Ms. Earp, Dr. Hutchins, and Dr.
6 Brashears are ordered to be reported favorably to the
7 Senate.

8 Lastly, I move the paperwork for these 116th Congress
9 nominations be part of the record. Without objection, so
10 ordered.

11 The business meeting is now adjourned.

12 [Whereupon, at 11:17 a.m., the Committee was
13 adjourned.]

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