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# **BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

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UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
113<sup>TH</sup> Congress, Second Session

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*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:09 p.m. in Room S-116, Capitol  
2 Building, Hon. Bob Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT:** Senators Menendez [presiding], Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Durbin, Udall,  
4 Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Corker, Rubio, Flake, McCain, and Barrasso.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BOB MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
6 will come to order.

7 We have two resolutions to consider as well as a list of personnel referred to the  
8 committee who have been nominated for appointment and promotion within and into  
9 the Foreign Service.

10 First, we have S. Res. 410, a resolution recognizing and commemorating the  
11 anniversary of the Armenian genocide on April 24th, 2014. The resolution reaffirms  
12 that 99 years later we will always remember this tragedy and honor the memory of the  
13 innocent Armenian men, women, and children who were killed or expelled from their  
14 homeland.

1 I have been speaking with colleagues over the last few days and to address some  
2 of the concerns, but still keep the core of the essence of what we are trying to achieve. I  
3 am offering a chairman's amendment to the resolution so that hopefully we can bring a  
4 greater spectrum of support to the resolution.

5 We also have S. Res. 413, a resolution marking the 20 years since the genocide in  
6 Rwanda, and affirming that it is in the national interest of the United States to prevent  
7 and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities.

8 Senator Corker, do you want to speak to these?

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

9 **SENATOR CORKER.** Sure. First of all, thank you, and I appreciate especially the fact  
10 of moving the Foreign Service officer promotions today, and I appreciate working with  
11 you on that.

12 On the Armenian genocide resolution, I appreciate the amendment that has been  
13 crafted to make it better, and I do not think there is any question that genocide scholars  
14 agree that the killing, expulsion, and dispossession of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey  
15 certainly meet the threshold of genocide. On the other hand, I do feel like this  
16 resolution is drafted in a way that it address Armenian grievances and sensibilities and  
17 does not differentiate between Ottoman Turkey and modern Turkey.

18 The resolution does not promote reconciliation and rapprochement between  
19 Turks and Armenians. It is not likely to help bilateral Turkish-Armenian relations.

1 Armenian genocide, the resolutions by France and other countries have led to long  
2 freezes in diplomatic and military cooperation, including banning port calls by Turkey.

3 We are engaged in a complex effort to counter Russia's aggression in the  
4 Ukraine. They have warships in the Black Sea. Turkey is experiencing internal political  
5 turmoil. I just do not think it is a good time to bring this type of resolution up, even  
6 though, again, I agree that scholars have said that genocide took place. It is a terrible  
7 tragedy.

8 I think the committee should focus first and foremost on what is in our Nation's  
9 national interest, and so, therefore, I am not going to support the resolution. But I  
10 appreciate that the chairman has a different point of view, and I think there may be  
11 enough members here on the committee that share that point of view, and it may  
12 become law. But I do not think it is in our national interests to do this.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone else wishing to speak to the resolutions?

14 [No response.]

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, let me just say I think the Armenian genocide is a horrifying  
16 factual reality that can never be denied. The resolution just reaffirms that reality in the  
17 strongest possible terms that we will honor the memory of innocent Armenian men,  
18 women, and children who were killed or expelled from their homeland.

19 And I think that with the amendments it puts it in an appropriate context to  
20 honor and remember a fact in history well documented by our own State Department.

1 And with most of the survivors now gone, but a few are left, I think it is time to lead  
2 globally on human rights, and for us to join the European Union and 11 of our NATO  
3 allies in officially recognizing the Armenian genocide.

4 And, you know, I will just close by reading from a speech that Barack Obama  
5 made in January of 2008. He said, "I share with Armenian-Americans, so many of  
6 whom are descended from genocide survivors, the principle commitment to  
7 commemorating and ending genocide. That starts with acknowledging the tragic  
8 incidences of genocide in world history.

9 I have stood with the Armenian-American community in calling for Turkey's  
10 acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide. Two years ago I criticized the Secretary of  
11 State for the firing of U.S. ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, after he properly used  
12 the term 'genocide' to describe the circumstances. This is not an allegation of personal  
13 opinion or a point of view, but rather a widely-documented fact supported by an  
14 overwhelming body of historical evidence. Those facts are undeniable."

15 And so, I think that what we do is recognize a historical fact, and I just do not  
16 think you can pick and choose your genocide. Genocide is genocide. And I just do not  
17 think you can pick one and recognize it and not pick another. And as it relates to any  
18 country's actions, there is a wide range of interests that we have with Turkey, and there  
19 is a wide set of circumstances in which we are engaged with them. This is about the

1 Ottoman Empire. This is about a time in history. This is well documented, and I think  
2 it is fitting and appropriate to do so.

3 I am chagrined when I hear that some country will act in a certain way and,  
4 therefore, here in the United States Senate or in the Congress of the United States that  
5 we should refrain from acting simply because someone will be upset. If that is the case,  
6 there are a lot of places in the world in which we make actors upset. And we do not let  
7 that intercede with our advocacy for human rights, for democracy, or for the  
8 recognition of genocides, whether it be in Rwanda, or whether it be the Holocaust, or  
9 whether it be the Armenian genocide.

10 If there are no other comments — yes?

11 SENATOR CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, just would you add me as a co-sponsor to the  
12 resolution?

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection, Senator Cardin.

14 **SENATOR KAINE.** Mr. Chair, I just want to thank you for working with me on the  
15 amendments. I wanted to make sure it was about the recognition of the historical fact  
16 and not — could not be construed as trying to engage in a foreign policy as essentially  
17 between Armenia and the Republic of Turkey. But the fact of the Ottoman's Empire's  
18 genocide against Armenia in 1950 is where — our ambassador to the United Nations  
19 has written a book about it. We confirmed her because of her passionate advocacy  
20 about this issue and others. But I appreciate you working with us on the amendments.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** I appreciate your efforts, and I think that as a whole it meets our  
2 core purpose and still preserves the importance of our relationship with Turkey.

3           Senator Coons?

4           **SENATOR COONS.** Mr. Chairman, if I might, as well as the co-sponsor of the other  
5 resolution on the agenda today, along with Senator Flake and you, that is principally  
6 about the Rwanda genocide, I appreciate your amendment to this first resolution. I  
7 think it is important that we not — that in commemorating historic acts by the Ottoman  
8 Empire, we not needlessly inflame relations between the current countries of Turkey  
9 and Armenia.

10           I shared with you my concerns about that, and I appreciate you making revisions  
11 to this in order to reflect that. And I do think and the second resolutions states this, that  
12 it is in the national interests of the United States to prevent and mitigate acts of  
13 genocide and mass atrocities and to hold people's and history accountable when they  
14 do.

15           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Anyone else?

16           [No response.]

17           **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I will move consideration of the two chairman's  
18 amendments to S. Res. 410. Is there a second?

19           **SENATOR CARDIN.** Second.

20           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. All those in favor will say aye.

1 [A chorus of ayes.]

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, no.

3 [No response.]

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the resolution is amended.

5 Next, I will move for a consideration of S. Res. 410, as amended, and S. Res. 413  
6 en block. Is there a second?

7 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Second.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Seconded by Senator Cardin.

9 **SENATOR CORKER.** Are we going to vote on them en block?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** I would think it would be better if we voted on them separately.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** You mean you want to pick and choose?

13 **SENATOR CORKER.** No, just they are two very different resolutions.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** They are both about genocide.

15 **SENATOR CORKER.** They are very different resolutions. I just think we would be  
16 better off voting separately. It will not take that long.

17 **VOICE.** I concur.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All right. Would you withdraw your second?

19 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Sure.



1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. Let us call up S. Res. 410, as amended. Now, is there a  
2 request for a recorded vote?

3           **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes.

4           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The clerk will call the roll.

5           **THE CLERK:** Mrs. Boxer?

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

7           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Cardin?

8           **SENATOR CARDIN.** Aye.

9           **THE CLERK:** Mrs. Shaheen?

10          **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Aye.

11          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Coons?

12          **SENATOR COONS.** Aye.

13          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Durbin?

14          **SENATOR DURBIN:** Aye.

15          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Udall?

16          **SENATOR UDALL.** Aye.

17          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Murphy?

18          **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.

19          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Kaine?

20          **SENATOR KAINE.** Aye.

1           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Markey?

2           **SENATOR MARKEY:** Aye.

3           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Corker?

4           **SENATOR CORKER.** No.

5           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Risch?

6           **SENATOR CORKER.** No by proxy.

7           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Rubio?

8           **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

9           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Johnson?

10          **SENATOR CORKER.** No by proxy.

11          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Flake?

12          **SENATOR FLAKE.** No.

13          **THE CLERK:** Mr. McCain?

14          **SENATOR MCCAIN.** Aye.

15          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Barrasso?

16          **SENATOR BARRASSO.** No.

17          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Paul?

18          **SENATOR CORKER.** He has not asked to be — to record his vote.

19          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Chairman?

20          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye. The clerk will report.

1           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Chairman, yeas are 12, noes are five.

2           **THE CHAIRMAN.** And the resolution is agreed to and sent to the full Senate.

3           S. Res. 413, I will ask for a recorded vote. The clerk will call the roll.

4           **THE CLERK:** Mrs. Boxer?

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

6           **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** I would like to be added as a co-sponsor on this resolution.

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Of S. Res. 413?

8           **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Right.

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes, without objection.

10          **THE CLERK:** Mrs. Boxer?

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

12          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Cardin?

13          **SENATOR CARDIN.** Aye.

14          **THE CLERK:** Mrs. Shaheen?

15          **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Aye.

16          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Coons?

17          **SENATOR COONS.** Aye.

18          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Durbin?

19          **SENATOR DURBIN:** Aye.

20          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Udall?

1           **SENATOR UDALL.** Aye.

2           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Murphy?

3           **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.

4           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Kaine?

5           **SENATOR KAINE.** Aye.

6           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Markey?

7           **SENATOR MARKEY:** Aye.

8           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Corker?

9           **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye.

10          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Risch?

11          **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.

12          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Rubio?

13          **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

14          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Johnson?

15          **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.

16          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Flake?

17          **SENATOR FLAKE.** Aye.

18          **THE CLERK:** Mr. McCain?

19          **SENATOR MCCAIN.** Aye.

20          **THE CLERK:** Mr. Barrasso?

1           **SENATOR BARRASSO.** Aye.

2           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Paul?

3           **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.

4           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Chair?

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye. The clerk will report.

6           **THE CLERK:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 18, the noes are zero.

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The resolution is approved and sent to the full Senate.

8           Finally, we have before us 14 personnel lists, including approximately 1,700  
9 individuals who have been nominated for appointment and promotion within and to  
10 the Foreign Service. I am aware of the damage and pain the delay in considering this  
11 list has caused, and I am very pleased to be able to move their nominations out of the  
12 committee today. It is very clear to me that the hardworking Foreign Service officers  
13 that we will vote on today deserve the recognition and promotions they have earned.

14           Before we proceed, I would just like to make a quick comment on the current  
15 vetting process of the list. I want to say that I am not aware of glaring problems with  
16 our current process as it has served both the State Department and the Senate Foreign  
17 Relations well over the years.

18           My own view is that the human resources professionals that manage the  
19 promotions process are competent, experienced professionals who have proven success  
20 in ensuring the quality of our diplomatic corps. The committee has exercised its own

1 independent oversight and review of these lists, and again I am just not aware of any  
2 actual problems that have arisen as a result of these established procedures.

3         Nevertheless, we have now as of this morning new procedures in place that I am  
4 told are sufficient to meet the concerns of the ranking member, and I appreciate him  
5 working with us to bring this issue to a close. And we will actively work with the  
6 Senate leadership to do everything we can to make sure these lists are confirmed by the  
7 full Senate before the upcoming recess.

8         Senator Corker, do you have any remarks? Do you want to make comments?

9         **SENATOR DURBIN:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

10        **THE CHAIRMAN.** Sure. Let me tend to Senator Corker first, and I would be happy to  
11 come to you.

12        **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes. I want to thank you and your staff for working with us.  
13 These are going through under the old process. Under the new process, which is  
14 certainly not cumbersome, we worked with actually a Foreign Service Union to get their  
15 support for what we have put in place, so just for what it is worth.

16        I thank you. I thank your staff. And I think all of us want to make sure when we  
17 do these en block — there are 1,800 members — that we are not approving someone  
18 that has some kind of criminal background that we are unaware of. And so, this  
19 prevents that from happening, or at least to the extent we can, it prevents it from  
20 happening. And I thank you for making that be the case.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Just let me make a comment. We have — from my understanding,  
2 that has never happened. And secondly, I am sure that the Foreign Service Association,  
3 having waited so long, was willing to submit versus necessarily be supportive. I think  
4 there is a letter from the State Department that basically says that this is a process that  
5 has — it is a solution in search of a problem. But we have come to a point in which the  
6 Foreign Service officers, because they have waited so long, have agreed to the process,  
7 and we want to move these people. So we are at that point. Senator Durbin?

8           **SENATOR DURBIN:** I would like to ask a question of both you and Senator Corker at  
9 this point. How many pending ambassadorial appointments are there on the Senate  
10 calendar?

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Before the committee or on the floor?

12          **SENATOR DURBIN:** On the floor.

13          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thirty-five.

14          **VOICE:** Forty-five.

15          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Forty-five, I am sorry.

16          **SENATOR DURBIN:** Forty-five. And I would like to ask —

17          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Give or take. Thirty-five?

18          **VOICE:** Yes.

19          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. Thirty-five to 45 would be the range.

20          [Laughter.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** We have the staff here. We have the leader staffs, and we have the  
2 State Department. So somewhere between 35 and 45.

3           **VOICE:** We also have the executive calendar.

4           **SENATOR DURBIN:** So the point I would like to ask Senator Corker is this. I recently,  
5 and I thank the committee and I thank everyone. I recently worked hard to get our  
6 ambassador to Canada up for a vote on the floor. It is a pretty important position, and  
7 the man was —

8           **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes, I agree.

9           **SENATOR DURBIN:** — well qualified, without any controversy, and sat there and sat  
10 there and sat there and sat there and sat there. And nothing was happening.

11           Could we have an understanding that if your side has any substantive issue with  
12 any ambassadorial appointment, we set those on one column here, and the others that  
13 are routine appointments to represent the United States of America all over the world,  
14 can we get those done in short order? What is the — I do not understand the point of  
15 holding these.

16           **SENATOR CORKER.** Well, if I could, and I know John wants to say something, too. I  
17 think the chairman and his staff would say that we have moved these through  
18 incredibly fast. I mean, so it is not the committee level where this is happening. I mean,  
19 these — I do not think there have been any complaints about —

20           **SENATOR DURBIN:** I understand that part.



1           **SENATOR CORKER.** But let me move to this next step. There were actually 40 people  
2 getting ready to be approved by unanimous consent when the actions took place on  
3 November the 21st where the nuclear option was put in place. I mean, they were  
4 unanimous consent 40, right, that one day. I do not think there is anybody on this  
5 committee that I am aware of that is a part of what is happening on the floor. I think  
6 that is a Senator Reid/Senator McConnell process at this point.

7           So I could not agree more that I would like to see these Foreign Service  
8 professionals approved. We have done an incredible job moving them through here,  
9 and I do not know of anybody on our side that is on this committee that has anything  
10 whatsoever to do with holding up any nominees. Again, it is a process that is taking  
11 place between the two leaders. And actually Senator Reid can, if he chooses, as I  
12 understand it, move people ahead of other people if he wants to move in place. So I  
13 would suggest that on this particular case, if you want him to the front of the line —

14           **SENATOR DURBIN:** He already made —

15           **SENATOR CORKER.** Nobody on this side of the committee is holding that up.

16           **SENATOR DURBIN:** Senator Corker, he already has approved it. But it is a trickle  
17 when, in effect, we are dealing with 25 or 30 of these who really have no controversy  
18 associated with them, and we have no one sitting in the embassies.

19           **SENATOR CORKER.** But I would just say that you are talking at the wrong pay grade  
20 here, okay?

1           **SENATOR DURBIN:** I appreciate that.

2           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator McCain?

3           **SENATOR MCCAIN.** He may be talking at a different pay grade. Right now, there  
4 are some ambassadors that I have deep concern about. Sooner or later they are going to  
5 be brought up. And they are totally unqualified, in fact, an embarrassment, and by a  
6 majority vote you will probably confirm them. You will probably confirm them,  
7 depriving me of my constitutional right of advice and consent because now the majority  
8 rules.

9           So I told you when you did this, do not be surprised that we would react in the  
10 fashion that we did. So I feel badly that the ambassadors have not been put forward  
11 and affirmed — confirmed in the way that you would like them to. But I care a hell of a  
12 lot more about my ability as a United States senator to — for my advice and consent,  
13 which you have deprived me of when you went to nuclear option.

14           So I can assure you that I will continue to object and drag it out just as much as I  
15 can because you should pay a price. You should pay a price for what you did when you  
16 changed the rules without the traditional way of changing. You broke the rules to  
17 change the rules.

18           So I understand your concern. I understand that we need ambassadors for this  
19 country. But I needed my right of advice and consent as well. And you are probably  
20 going to confirm a guy as the ambassador of Norway that is a joke because sooner or

1 later you will get him up before the full Senate, and the guy will be a joke. Everybody  
2 in Norway knows about him. And there are a couple of others the same way.

3 So, my friend, there is a price you pay when you do things that are really bad,  
4 and what you all did, and there are people here who were leaders in that movement,  
5 were really bad. So you can count on me to take as long as we possibly can until maybe  
6 we will get the majority back again and we will restore the minority's right to advice  
7 and consent.

8 **SENATOR DURBIN:** Well, I am sure that I brought up this issue, and I would just say  
9 to my friend, and you are my friend, John, and you know that, that I am not —

10 **SENATOR McCAIN.** I will never get over what you all did.

11 **SENATOR DURBIN:** John —

12 **SENATOR McCAIN.** I was here for 30 years and had my advice and consent rights,  
13 and it was taken away from me because you guys decided —

14 **SENATOR DURBIN:** I am sorry you are leaving because I would like to address this  
15 with you. But if you have a substantive issue with any candidate, then certainly you  
16 should raise that on the floor. And I hope that on a bipartisan basis we can take a look  
17 at it in an honest measure.

18 But the statement that I am paying a price, I am not paying a price. People are  
19 paying the price who are innocent people who want to serve this Nation and represent

1 us overseas, and they are being held up because of differences of opinion and a very  
2 serious difference of opinion here. And that is my point.

3 **SENATOR CORKER.** And if I could, and I do not want ever speak for Senator  
4 McCain. In spite of what he just said, which I know he feels passionately about, and I  
5 have got to tell you, especially after what happened this summer when so many of us  
6 tried to work through the nuclear option and it took some really tough votes for us to  
7 make it all happen. I got to tell you, I, too, was unbelievably disappointed that we had  
8 this made-up crisis when the entire executive calendar could have been cleared in three  
9 weeks, and everybody knew that, okay?

10 So let me just finish and say, though, again, in spite of what Senator McCain just  
11 said, the process by which the people are moving through the floor is still a Harry  
12 Reid/Mitch McConnell process. And they are agreeing to who is coming through and  
13 who is not, and Senator Reid can put up people in advance if he wishes. But the fact is I  
14 want to go back and say, we could have had 40 — 40 — ambassadors, 40 people  
15 approved just like that if we had just done it under the regular order. And I am  
16 disappointed and, you know, I am trying to push things along in the Senate in spite of  
17 the fact that, you know, a group of folks, without even making a phone call, decided to  
18 change the rules without even calling.

19 So, look, I am sorry you are disappointed. I am disappointed. I wish the Senate  
20 functioned better. I will say this, that this committee, in spite of the strong words,

1 which I am glad happened. I mean, that is what makes real things occur. The fact is  
2 this committee under Chairman Menendez's leadership is still functioning in a way that  
3 it should. We disagree on this today. That is the first time, I think, we have disagreed  
4 on an issue. And the majority rules. But this committee thankfully is putting  
5 differences aside at the shortest line and continuing to function in spite of the  
6 atmosphere that has been created in the Senate.

7 **SENATOR DURBIN:** Senator Corker, I commend you and Senator Menendez for  
8 working together. I was hoping that for innocent people who have been caught in this  
9 crossfire between the two caucuses who want to represent the United States of America  
10 overseas, would just be getting their chance. If there is a substantive issue involving  
11 them, for goodness sakes, let us debate it.

12 **SENATOR CORKER.** But this is not the place. This is not the place that is holding that  
13 up is all I am saying.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Before, Senator Coons, you leave, we have not voted on this list of  
15 people yet. So before we do further damage, I would ask — I am unaware of a request  
16 for a roll call vote on any of these lists. So in the absence of such, I propose a voice vote  
17 en block for all of the list that is here before the members. Is there a second?

18 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Second.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. All those in favor will say aye.

20 [A chorus of ayes.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed will say no.

2           [No response.]

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and I ask unanimous consent that staff be  
4 authorized to make technical and confirming changes to the items approved today.

5           Without objection, so ordered.

6           Senator Shaheen, I know you had your hand up before.

7           **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** No, I am fine.

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. If there is nothing else to come before the committee, we  
9 are adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 2:33 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**