

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 5:30 p.m., in Room S-216, the President's Room, Hon. Robert Menendez presiding.

Present: Senators Menendez [presiding], Cardin, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Booker, Schatz, Van Hollen, Risch, Rubio, Romney, Portman, Young, Barrasso, Rounds, and Hagerty.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

The Chairman: All right.

This meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order. If I could have everybody's attention we will get through this quickly.

Thanks for everybody's flexibility today. Obviously, what we are doing on the floor is super important and historic. So I know that everybody is going to be thrilled on voting on the protocols.

We have a holdover request from State Auth, which we are honoring, and we will take that up in the Taiwan bill in September. So I look forward to working with the ranking member to make that happen.

Today, we are considering 17 nominations. We received a holdover request for one of them, Joey Hood for Tunisia. So we will be voting on 16.

These are well qualified nominees. I intend to do it en bloc.

Senator Risch?

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH, U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO

Senator Risch: I intend to support them. I would only ask that the record be left open until the close of business tomorrow so the members can register a no on individuals.

The Chairman: There will not be any objection to that.

So without objection, we will now consider en bloc all of the nominations noticed for the business meeting except for Joey Hood.

Is there a motion?

Well, first, does anybody want to comment on it?

[No response.]

The Chairman: If not, is there a motion to move en bloc?

Senator Booker: So moved.

The Chairman: So moved. Is there a second?

Senator Kaine: Second.

Senator Portman: Second.

The Chairman: Second.

All right. All those in favor will say aye.

All those opposed will say no.

The ayes have it and the nominations are favorably reported to the Senate.

There is also a resolution that the ranking member and I have agreed to. It is a bipartisan resolution by Senator Sullivan and Senator Duckworth, which basically celebrates the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance, the dedication of the Wall of Remembrance.

This is to make the Korean government a little happier than they were as a result of the commemoration. They paid \$22 million for the wall and they did not get the type of attention from our government that many think they should have, and so this is honoring that.

Senator Risch: I move the adoption.

The Chairman: Move the adoption? I am sorry?

[Laughter.]

The Chairman: It has been moved. Second it?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded.

All those in favor say aye.

Opposed, say no.

The resolution is favorably adopted and reported to the Senate, and that completes the committee's business.

Thank you all for attending. All right.

[Whereupon, at 5:33 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]