

1 BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER PENDING NOMINATION

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3 THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

4 United States Senate,  
5 Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
6 Washington, D.C.

7 The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:45 a.m.,  
8 in Room S-216, The Capitol, Hon. Jerry Moran presiding.

9 Present: Senators Moran, Cassidy, Tillis, Cramer,  
10 Loeffler, Tester, Brown, Hirono, Manchin, and Sinema.

11 Chairman Moran. I call the meeting of the Senate  
12 Veterans' Affairs Committee to order.

13 We cannot take a vote until we have a quorum, and we  
14 are missing one, as I understand it. But we can proceed to  
15 that point.

16 I would recognize the Senator from Montana for a  
17 motion.

18 Senator Tester. Mr. Chairman, I will make the  
19 following motion. I move the Committee favorably report the  
20 nomination of Scott J. Laurer to be a Judge of the United  
21 States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

22 And I have a comment to make about this when you are  
23 ready.

24 Chairman Moran. Is there objection?

25 [No response.]

1 Chairman Moran. Senator Tester is recognized for his  
2 statement. We will take a vote--

3 Senator Tester. Very quickly, I have changed my vote  
4 from a no to a yes on this individual. I talked to him  
5 yesterday. I have never had an issue with his confidence.  
6 What I had an issue with was his lack of candidness in the  
7 questions I have asked. Yesterday he was very forthright,  
8 very candid.

9 My vote does not tie anybody else. You guys are all  
10 Senators representing your constituency. But I think the  
11 guy is a good guy.

12 Chairman Moran. Thank you, Jon.

13 There is now a quorum present. Is there any other  
14 debate?

15 [No response.]

16 Chairman Moran. No other debate, the vote is on the  
17 motion that the Committee report favorably the pending  
18 nomination that is before us.

19 All those in favor, say aye.

20 [Chorus of ayes.]

21 Chairman Moran. All those opposed, say no.

22 [Chorus of nays.]

23 Chairman Moran. It appears the ayes have it. The ayes  
24 do have it.

25 Senator Hirono. Mr. Chairman, may I be recorded as a

1 no?

2 Chairman Moran. Senator Hirono will be recorded as a

3 no.

4 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes do have it. The  
5 nomination is reported favorably.

6 Senator Brown. Before we adjourn, I want to be  
7 recorded as a no.

8 Chairman Moran. Senator Brown will be recorded as a  
9 no.

10 Senator Sinema. Mr. Chairman, could I be recorded as  
11 present?

12 Chairman Moran. Senator Sinema will be recorded as  
13 present.

14 The meeting is adjourned.

15 [Whereupon, at 11:47 a.m., the Committee was  
16 adjourned.]

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