

1 EXECUTIVE SESSION

2
3 Thursday, March 12, 2026

4
5 U.S. Senate
6 Committee on Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation
8 Washington, D.C.

9
10 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:44 a.m.,
11 in S-216, The President's Room, Hon. Ted Cruz, chairman of
12 the committee, presiding.

13 Present: Senators Cruz [presiding], Thune, Wicker,
14 Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Young, Budd, Schmitt, Curtis,
15 Moreno, Sheehy, Capito, Lummis, Cantwell, Klobuchar,
16 Baldwin, and Lujan.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TED CRUZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS

2 The Chairman: All right, the Committee on Commerce,
3 Science, and Transportation is called to order. When we
4 have a couple more Members we will move the first items on
5 our agenda. At this moment, I recognize Senator Cantwell
6 for a motion.

7 Senator Cantwell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move
8 that PN 730-28, the nomination of Michael Graham to be a
9 Member of the National Transportation Safety Board be
10 favorably reported.

11 The Chairman: Is there a second?

12 Senator Fischer: Second.

13 The Chairman: Clerk will call the roll.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

15 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

17 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

18 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

19 Senator Fischer: Aye.

20 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

21 Senator Moran: Aye.

22 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

23 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

24 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

25 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

1 The Clerk: Mr. Young?
2 Mr. Young: Aye.
3 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?
4 Senator Budd: Aye.
5 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?
6 Senator Schmitt: Aye.
7 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?
8 Senator Curtis: Aye.
9 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
10 Senator Moreno: Aye.
11 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
12 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
13 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?
14 Senator Capito: Aye.
15 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
16 Senator Lummis: Aye.
17 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
18 Senator Cantwell: Aye.
19 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
20 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
21 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
22 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
23 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?
24 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
25 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

1 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

2 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?

3 Senator Baldwin: Aye.

4 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

5 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

6 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

7 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

8 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

9 Mr. Lujan: No.

10 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

11 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

13 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

15 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

17 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

18 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

19 The Chairman: Aye.

20 The Clerk: The ayes are 21. The noes are 7.

21 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the

22 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably. I

23 recognize Senator Cantwell for an additional motion.

24 Senator Cantwell: Mr. Chairman, I move that PN730-3,

25 the nomination of Matthew Anderson to be Deputy

1 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
2 Administration, be favorably reported.

3 The Chairman: Is there a second?

4 Senator Moran: Second.

5 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

6 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

7 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

8 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

9 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

10 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

11 Senator Fischer: Aye.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

13 Senator Moran: Aye.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

15 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

16 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

17 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

18 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

19 Mr. Young: Aye.

20 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?

21 Senator Budd: Aye.

22 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?

23 Senator Schmitt: Aye.

24 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

25 Senator Curtis: Aye.

1 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
2 Senator Moreno: Aye.
3 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
4 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
5 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?
6 Senator Capito: Aye.
7 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
8 Senator Lummis: Aye.
9 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
10 Senator Cantwell: Aye.
11 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
12 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
13 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
14 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
15 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?
16 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
17 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?
18 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
19 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?
20 Senator Baldwin: Aye.
21 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?
22 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
23 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?
24 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
25 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

1 Mr. Lujan: No.

2 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

3 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

4 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

5 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

6 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

7 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

8 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

9 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

10 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

11 The Chairman: Aye.

12 The Clerk: The ayes are 23. The noes are 5.

13

14 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the

15 nomination will be reported favorably. I recognize Senator

16 Cantwell for an additional motion.

17 Senator Cantwell: Mr. Chairman, I move that PN 716

18 and PN 769, Coast Guard promotions, be favorably reported.

19 The Chairman: There is a second.

20 Senator Cantwell: Second.

21 The Chairman: All those in favor say aye.

22 Chorus of ayes.

23 The Chairman: All those opposed say no.

24 The motion is agreed to and the nominations are

25 ordered to be reported favorably. We are still waiting for

1 a couple of additional Members. If anyone wants to make
2 remarks now is the chance.. Ranking Member Cantwell.

3 Senator Cantwell: On the nomination of Commander
4 Millard, an independent DHS OIG investigation found Command
5 Millard had committed retaliation and violated federal
6 whistleblower protection law. The DHS OIG validated only
7 eleven out of more than 3,100 whistleblower retaliation
8 complaints it received between FY 19 and FY 2025. One of
9 those eleven was Commander Millard.

10 It's been less than three years since the Coast
11 Guard's Operation Fouled Anchor scandal exposed rampant
12 cultural failings and a lack of accountability. Our job is
13 to ensure the right leadership is in place to fix these
14 issues and I want to thank the whistleblower, Commander
15 McLearn, for speaking out and I urge a "no" vote on
16 Commander Millard.

17 The Chairman: Senator Baldwin.

18 Senator Baldwin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want
19 to join my colleague from Washington in expressing deep
20 concern over the committee's consideration of Commander
21 Millard's promotion to Captain today. Operation Fouled
22 Anchor revealed a Coast Guard culture that tolerated and
23 protected abuse for years. Since then, this committee,
24 including the Coast Guard subcommittee when I was Chair,
25 has passed critical legislation to promote transparency,

1 accountability, and respect throughout the Coast Guard. We
2 have conducted our own oversight and investigations to
3 bring justice to victims and to ensure harassment and
4 assaults are never swept under the rug in the Coast Guard
5 again. And while there is work left to be done, these
6 committee efforts have gone a long way to create a safer
7 and more accountable Coast Guard. Supporting Commander
8 Millard's promotion would be a step in the wrong direction
9 from all the critical work we have done since Operation
10 Fouled Anchor. If we intend to ensure that there is
11 accountability, then this committee cannot allow the
12 promotion of officers into the Coast Guard's senior ranks
13 who have substantiated claims of retaliation in their
14 records. I will be opposing Commander Millard's promotion
15 and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

16 The Chairman: I will be giving brief responses to
17 Senator Cantwell and Senator Baldwin's remarks but we have
18 sufficient Members in the room now. We can move the
19 nominations now and I will make remarks afterwards.

20 The Chairman: With that I move that PN846, the
21 nomination of Jesse M. Millard to be Captain, be favorably
22 reported. Is there a second?

23 Senator Fischer: Second.

24 The Chairman: The Clerk will call the roll.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

1 Senator Thune: Aye.
2 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?
3 Senator Wicker: Aye.
4 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?
5 Senator Fischer: Aye.
6 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?
7 Senator Moran: Aye.
8 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?
9 Senator Sullivan: Aye.
10 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?
11 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.
12 The Clerk: Mr. Young?
13 Mr. Young: Aye.
14 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?
15 Senator Budd: Aye.
16 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?
17 Senator Schmitt: Aye.
18 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?
19 Senator Curtis: Aye.
20 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
21 Senator Moreno: Aye.
22 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
23 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
24 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?
25 Senator Capito: Aye.

1 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
2 Senator Lummis: Aye.
3 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
4 Senator Cantwell: No.
5 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
6 Senator Klobuchar: I am here. No.
7 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
8 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
9 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?
10 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
11 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?
12 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
13 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?
14 Senator Baldwin: No.
15 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?
16 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
17 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?
18 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
19 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?
20 Mr. Lujan: No.
21 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?
22 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
23 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?
24 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
25 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

1 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

2 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

3 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

4 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

5 The Chairman: Aye.

6 The Clerk: The ayes are 15, the noes are 13.

7 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the
8 nomination will be ordered to be reported favorably.

9 The Chairman: I recognize Senator Fischer for a
10 motion.

11 Senator Fischer: Mr. Chairman, I move that PN730-37,
12 the nomination of Richard Kloster to be a Member of the
13 Surface Transportation Board, be favorably reported.

14 The Chairman: Is there a second?

15 Senator Wicker: Seconded.

16 The Chairman: The Clerk will call the roll.

17 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

18 Senator Thune: Aye.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

20 Senator Wicker: Aye.

21 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

22 Senator Fischer: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

24 Senator Moran: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

1 Senator Sullivan: Aye.
2 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?
3 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.
4 The Clerk: Mr. Young?
5 Mr. Young: Aye.
6 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?
7 Senator Budd: Aye.
8 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?
9 Senator Schmitt: Aye.
10 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?
11 Senator Curtis: Aye.
12 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
13 Senator Moreno: Aye.
14 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
15 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
16 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?
17 Senator Capito: Aye.
18 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
19 Senator Lummis: Aye.
20 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
21 Senator Cantwell: No.
22 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
23 Senator Klobuchar: No.
24 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
25 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

1 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?

2 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

3 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

4 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

5 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?

6 Senator Baldwin: No.

7 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

8 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

9 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

10 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

11 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

12 Mr. Lujan: No.

13 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

14 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

16 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

17 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

18 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

20 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

22 The Chairman: Aye.

23 The Clerk: The ayes are 15. The noes are 13.

24 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to and the

25 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably.

1 The Chairman: I recognize Senator Schmitt for a
2 motion.

3 Senator Schmitt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman I move that
4 PN730-51, the nomination of Seval Oz to be an Assistant
5 Secretary of Transportation, be favorably reported.

6 The Chairman: Is there a second?

7 Senator Lummis: Second.

8 The Chairman: The Clerk will call the roll.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

10 Senator Thune: Aye.

11 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

12 Senator Wicker: Aye.

13 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

14 Senator Fischer: Aye.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

16 Senator Moran: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

18 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

19 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

20 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

22 Mr. Young: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?

24 Senator Budd: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?

1 Senator Schmitt: Aye.
2 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?
3 Senator Curtis: Aye.
4 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
5 Senator Moreno: Aye.
6 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
7 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
8 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?
9 Senator Capito: Aye.
10 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
11 Senator Lummis: Aye.
12 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
13 Senator Cantwell: No.
14 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
15 Senator Klobuchar: No.
16 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
17 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
18 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?
19 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
20 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?
21 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.
22 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?
23 Senator Baldwin: No.
24 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?
25 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

1 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

2 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

3 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

4 Mr. Lujan: No.

5 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

6 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

7 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

8 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

10 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

11 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

12 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

13 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

14 The Chairman: Aye.

15 The Clerk: The ayes are 16. The noes are 12.

16 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to and the

17 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably.

18 The Chairman: I now recognize Senator Young for a

19 motion.

20 Senator Young: I move that PN730-54, the nomination of

21 Arvind Raman to be Undersecretary of Commerce for Standards

22 and Technology, be favorably reported.

23 The Chairman: Is there a second?

24 Senator Scmitt: Second.

25 The Chairman: The Clerk will call the roll.

1 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?
2 Senator Thune: Aye.
3 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?
4 Senator Wicker: Aye.
5 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?
6 Senator Fischer: Aye.
7 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?
8 Senator Moran: Aye.
9 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?
10 Senator Sullivan: Aye.
11 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?
12 Chairman Cruz: Aye by proxy.
13 The Clerk: Mr. Young?
14 Mr. Young: Aye.
15 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?
16 Senator Budd: Aye.
17 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?
18 Senator Schmitt: Aye.
19 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?
20 Senator Curtis: Aye.
21 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?
22 Senator Moreno: Aye.
23 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?
24 Senator Sheehy: Aye.
25 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?

1 Senator Capito: Aye.
2 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?
3 Senator Lummis: Aye.
4 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?
5 Senator Cantwell: No.
6 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?
7 Senator Klobuchar: No.
8 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?
9 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
10 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?
11 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
12 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?
13 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
14 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?
15 Senator Baldwin: No.
16 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?
17 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
18 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?
19 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
20 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?
21 Mr. Lujan: No.
22 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?
23 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.
24 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?
25 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

1 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

2 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

3 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

4 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

5 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

6 The Chairman: Aye.

7 The Clerk: The ayes are 16. The noes are 12.

8 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to and the
9 nomination is ordered to be favorably reported.

10 The Chairman: We've concluded our business and I want
11 to briefly respond to Ranking Member Cantwell and Senator
12 Baldwin's comments. Jesse Millard is a career service
13 member of the Coast Guard. He is up for a modest promotion
14 to Captain. If the Democrats had succeeded, they would have
15 effectively killed this man's career and tarnished his
16 reputation. Commander Millard has done nothing wrong other
17 than obey orders and display honesty and integrity. This
18 case stems from the accusations against Mr. Millard's
19 superior by a serial complainant. The complainant in
20 question filed repeated unsubstantiated accusations of
21 discrimination and other charges against multiple senior
22 officers. At some point, when the complaints are against
23 everyone the problem isn't the coworkers or the managers.
24 Let's consider the complainant's motivations. She has
25 worked with House Democrats to level political charges

1 against the Coast Guard and has sought to pull strings with
2 impeached DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who was her
3 boss earlier in her career. The real victim here is
4 unfortunately Commander Millard whose reputation is being
5 unfairly tarnished. He performed his duties with honor and
6 integrity and deserves to continue his service to his
7 fellow countrymen. Does anyone else have any comments...if
8 not, the committee is adjourned.

9

10

11 [Whereupon, at 11:58 a.m., the executive session was
12 adjourned.]