

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

EXECUTIVE SESSION #20

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING
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EXECUTIVE SESSION #20

Thursday, March 12, 2026

U.S. Senate
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:45 a.m., in Room 216, Presidents Room, Hon. Ted Cruz, chairman of the committee, presiding.

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

Index: Senators Cruz, Cantwell, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Young, Budd, Schmitt, Curtis, Moreno, Sheehy, Capito, Lummis, Baldwin, and Klobuchar.

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

3 The Chairman: All right. The Senate Committee on
4 Commerce, Science and Transportation is called to order.
5 And we got a couple more members who will move the first
6 items on our agenda. But at this moment, I recognize
7 Senator Cantwell for a motion.

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

12 The Chairman: Is there a second?

13 Voices: Second.

14 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

16 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

17 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

18 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

20 Senator Fischer: Aye.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

22 Senator Moran: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

24 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?



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



1 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

2 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

3 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?

4 Senator Baldwin: Aye.

5 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

6 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

7 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

8 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

10 Senator Lujan: No.

11 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

12 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

13 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

14 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

16 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

17 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

18 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

20 The Chairman: Aye.

21 The Clerk: The yeses are 21. The noes are 7.

22 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the
23 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably. I
24 recognize Ranking Member Cantwell for an additional motion.

25 Senator Cantwell: Mr. Chairman, I move that PN 733-3,

1 the nomination of Matthew Anderson to be Deputy
2 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
3 Administration, be favorably reported.

4 The Chairman: Is there a second?

5 Voices: Second.

6 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

7 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

8 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

10 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

11 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

12 Senator Fischer: Aye.

13 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

14 Senator Moran: Aye.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

16 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

18 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

20 Senator Young: Aye.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?

22 Senator Budd: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?

24 Senator Schmitt: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?



1 Senator Curtis: Aye.

2 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?

3 Senator Moreno: Aye.

4 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?

5 Senator Sheehy: Aye.

6 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?

7 Senator Capito: Aye.

8 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?

9 Senator Lummis: Aye.

10 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?

11 Senator Cantwell: Aye.

12 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?

13 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

15 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?

17 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

18 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

19 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

20 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?

21 Senator Baldwin: Aye.

22 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

23 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

24 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

25 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.



1 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

2 Senator Lujan: No.

3 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

4 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

5 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

6 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

7 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

8 Senator Cantwell: Aye by proxy.

9 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

10 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

11 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

12 The Chairman: Aye.

13 The Clerk: The yeses are 23. The noes are 5.

14 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the
15 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably. I
16 recognize Ranking Member Cantwell for an additional motion.

17 Senator Cantwell: Okay, I move that -- Mr. Chairman,
18 I moved that PN 716 and PN 769, Coast Guard promotions, be
19 favorably reported.

20 The Chairman: Is there a second?

21 Voices: Second.

22 The Chairman: All those in favor say aye.

23 [Chorus of ayes.]

24 The Chairman: All those opposed say no.

25 [No response.]



1 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to and the
2 nominations are ordered to be reported favorably. We are
3 still waiting for a couple of additional members. If
4 anyone wants to make remarks now --

5 Senator Cantwell: Mr. Chairman.

6 The Chairman: Ranking Member Cantwell.

7 Senator Cantwell: Mr. Chairman, on the nomination of
8 Commander Jesse Millard, PN 846, an independent DHS OIG
9 investigation found that Commander Millard had committed
10 retaliation and violated whistleblower protection law.

11 DHS OIG validated only 11 of more than 3,100
12 whistleblower retaliation complaints it received between
13 Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2025. One of those 11 was
14 Commander Millard. It has been less than three years since
15 the Coast Guard's Operation Fouled Anchor scandal exposed
16 rampant cultural failings and lack of accountability.

17 Our job is to ensure the right leadership is in place
18 to fix these issues. And I want to thank Commander McLear
19 for speaking out against this nomination. And I urge a no
20 -- or speaking out, I should say, and I urge no vote on
21 Millard.

22 The Chairman: Senator Baldwin.

23 Senator Baldwin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also
24 want to join my colleague from Washington in expressing
25 deep concern over the committee's consideration of



1 Commander Millard's promotion to Captain today.

2 Operation Fouled Anchor revealed a Coast Guard culture
3 that tolerated and protected abuse for years. Since then,
4 this committee, including the Coast Guard subcommittee when
5 I was chair, has passed critical legislation to promote
6 transparency, accountability, and respect throughout the
7 Coast Guard.

8 We have conducted our own oversight and investigations
9 to bring justice to victims and ensure that harassment and
10 assaults are never swept under the rug in the Coast Guard
11 again. And while there is work left to be done, these
12 committee efforts have gone a long way to create a safer
13 and more accountable Coast Guard.

14 Supporting Commander Millard's promotion would be a
15 step in the wrong direction from all the critical work that
16 we have done since Operation Fouled Anchor. If we intend
17 to ensure there is accountability, then this committee
18 cannot allow the promotion of officers into the Coast
19 Guard's senior ranks who have substantiated claims of
20 retaliation in their records.

21 I will be opposing Commander Millard's promotion, and
22 I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

23 The Chairman: And I will be giving brief responses to
24 Senator Cantwell and Senator Baldwin. But since we have
25 sufficient members in the room now, we are going to move



1 the nominations first and then I will make my remarks
2 afterwards. And with that, I move that PN 846, the
3 nomination of Jesse M. Millard to be Captain, be favorably
4 reported. Is there a second?

5 Voices: Second.

6 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

7 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

8 Senator Thune: Aye.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

10 Senator Wicker: Aye.

11 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

12 Senator Fischer: Aye.

13 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

14 Senator Moran: Aye.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

16 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

18 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

20 Senator Young: Aye.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?

22 Senator Budd: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?

24 Senator Schmitt: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?



1 Senator Curtis: Aye.

2 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?

3 Senator Moreno: Aye.

4 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?

5 Senator Sheehy: Aye.

6 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?

7 Senator Capito: Aye.

8 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?

9 Senator Lummis: Aye.

10 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?

11 Senator Cantwell: No.

12 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?

13 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

14 Senator Klobuchar: No -- I am here.

15 Senator Cantwell: Oh, good - yay.

16 [Laughter.]

17 Senator Cantwell: I have usually been looking up, but
18 you snuck in. Okay.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

20 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?

22 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

24 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

25 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?



1 Senator Baldwin: No.

2 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

3 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

4 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

5 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

6 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

7 Senator Lujan: No.

8 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

9 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

10 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

11 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

13 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

15 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

17 The Chairman: Aye.

18 The Clerk: The yeses are 15. The noes are 13.

19 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the
20 nomination will be ordered to be reported favorably. I
21 recognize Senator Fischer for a motion.

22 Senator Fischer: Mr. Chairman, I move that PN 730-37,
23 the nomination of Richard Kloster to be a Member of the
24 Surface Transportation Board, be favorably reported.

25 The Chairman: Is there a second?



1 Voices: Second.

2 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

3 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

4 Senator Thune: Aye.

5 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

6 Senator Wicker: Aye.

7 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

8 Senator Fischer: Aye.

9 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

10 Senator Moran: Aye.

11 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

12 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

13 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

14 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

15 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

16 Senator Young: Aye.

17 The Clerk: Mr. Budd?

18 Senator Budd: Aye.

19 The Clerk: Mr. Schmitt?

20 Senator Schmitt: Aye.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

22 Senator Curtis: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Moreno?

24 Senator Moreno: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mr. Sheehy?



1 Senator Sheehy: Aye.

2 The Clerk: Mrs. Capito?

3 Senator Capito: Aye.

4 The Clerk: Ms. Lummis?

5 Senator Lummis: Aye.

6 The Clerk: Ms. Cantwell?

7 Senator Cantwell: No.

8 The Clerk: Ms. Klobuchar?

9 Senator Klobuchar: No.

10 The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

11 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Markey?

13 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Peters?

15 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Ms. Baldwin?

17 Senator Baldwin: No.

18 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

19 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

20 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

21 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

22 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

23 Senator Lujan: No.

24 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

25 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.



1 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

2 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

3 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

4 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

5 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

6 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

7 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

8 The Chairman: Aye.

9 The Clerk: The yeses are 13. The noes are -- the
10 yeses are 15. The noes are 13.

11 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to. The
12 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably. I
13 recognize Senator Schmitt for a motion.

14 Senator Schmitt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move
15 that PN 730-51, the nomination of Seval Oz to be the
16 Assistant Secretary of Transportation, be favorably
17 reported..

18 The Chairman: Is there a second?

19 Voices: Second.

20 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

21 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

22 Senator Thune: Aye.

23 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

24 Senator Wicker: Aye.

25 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?



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



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



1 The Chairman: Aye.

2 The Clerk: The yeses are 16. The noes are 12.

3 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to and the
4 nomination is ordered to be reported favorably. I now
5 recognize Senator Young for motion.

6 Senator Young: I move that PN 730-54, the nomination
7 of Arvind Raman to be Under Secretary of Commerce for
8 Standards and Technology, be favorably reported.

9 The Chairman: Is there a second?

10 Voices: Second.

11 The Chairman: The clerk will call the roll.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Thune?

13 Senator Thune: Aye.

14 The Clerk: Mr. Wicker?

15 Senator Wicker: Aye.

16 The Clerk: Mrs. Fischer?

17 Senator Fischer: Aye.

18 The Clerk: Mr. Moran?

19 Senator Moran: Aye.

20 The Clerk: Mr. Sullivan?

21 Senator Sullivan: Aye.

22 The Clerk: Mrs. Blackburn?

23 The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

24 The Clerk: Mr. Young?

25 Senator Young: Aye.



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



1 Senator Baldwin: No.

2 The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

3 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

4 The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

5 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

6 The Clerk: Mr. Lujan?

7 Senator Lujan: No.

8 The Clerk: Mr. Hickenlooper?

9 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

10 The Clerk: Mr. Fetterman?

11 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

12 The Clerk: Mr. Kim?

13 Senator Cantwell: Yes by proxy.

14 The Clerk: Ms. Blunt Rochester?

15 Senator Cantwell: No by proxy.

16 The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

17 The Chairman: Aye.

18 The Clerk: The yeses are 16. The noes are 12.

19 The Chairman: The motion is agreed to, and the
20 nomination is ordered to be favorably reported. We have
21 completed our business items. I want to respond briefly to
22 comments that were made at the beginning. Jesse Millard is
23 a career service member of the Coast Guard.

24 He is up for a modest promotion to Captain. If the
25 Democrats had succeeded, they would have effectively killed



1 this man's career and tarnished his reputation. Commander
2 Millard has done nothing wrong other than obey orders and
3 display honesty and integrity. This case stands from the
4 accusations against Mr. Millard's superior by a serial
5 complainant. The complainant in question filed repeated
6 unsubstantiated accusations of discrimination and other
7 charges against multiple senior officers.

8 At some point when the complaints are against
9 everyone, the problem isn't the co-workers or the managers.
10 Let's consider the complainant's motivations. She has
11 worked with House Democrats to level political charges
12 against the Coast Guard and has sought to pull strings with
13 impeached DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who was her
14 boss early in her career.

15 The real victim here, unfortunately, is Commander
16 Millard, whose reputation is being unfairly tarnished. He
17 performed his duties with honor and integrity, and he
18 deserves to continue in service to his fellow countrymen.
19 If anyone has any additional comments?

20 [No response.]

21 The Chairman: If not, the committee is adjourned.

22 [Whereupon, at 11:58 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

23

24

25



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