VOTE ON JEFFERSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jefferson nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Risch
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Booker	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Johnson	Sanders
Burr	Kaine	Sasse
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Sinema
Coons	Lee	Smith
Cornyn	Luján	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markey	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Ernst	Moran	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hagerty	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—7

Boozman	Hawley	Tuberville
Braun	Paul	
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—2

Blunt	Carper

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Washington.

CONFIRMATION OF ALVARO M. BEDOYA

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise tonight to highlight the significance of the vote we took earlier today, and that is to confirm Alvaro Bedoya to be Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

Not only is this a critical moment for us to act and help American consumers, Alvaro Bedoya is the right person to get this job.

The FTC is the first line of defense for consumers. And if a company is lying to its customers about their products and what they can do or teaming up with competitors to keep prices high, the FTC is the officer on the beat to stop bad actors and to protect those consumers.

Now we need the FTC more than ever. We needed them during the COVID pandemic when scammers were looking to capitalize on the pandemic and stole $5.9 billion out of the pocketbooks of Americans. That is just the amount that was consumer reported. It doesn't include people who never knew they were scammed or were too embarrassed to report their losses.

Just as we needed them then, we need them to continue to help us during the pandemic to stop scammers from selling fake cures and counterfeit masks. We need them to tackle rising prices that threaten all of us today.

Protecting consumers is a bipartisan issue. In the Senate, we worked across the aisle to support the FTC, and Congress pumped the FTC's power at the end of 2020 when we passed the COVID–19 Consumer Protection Act to help root out the promoters of dangerous fake treatments and cures. We also gave the FTC $30 million in the American Rescue Plan to protect Americans against these scams.

Today, we will take this important step in helping to protect consumers by having Mr. Bedoya fill the last seat on the Federal Trade Commission. He has the right experience to tackle some of the most complicated and pressing issues that we have, that we are facing regarding a variety of issues from privacy to online privacy.

Being the Founding Director of the Center of Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law where he was a professor, he did amazing work. And prior to joining Georgetown, he served as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law.

Many of my colleagues know Mr. Bedoya; and I am glad his nomination finally has passed here in the Senate, and we look forward to working with him.

NOMINATION OF ADMIRAL LINDA L. FAGAN

Mr. President, I also want to speak about the historical significance of another nominee that will be voted on shortly. Tonight, hopefully, in the wrap-up, we will be passing on the nomination of Admiral Linda Fagan to be the next Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard serves the American people by safeguarding life at sea, protecting the environment, and ensuring our national security.

The role of Commandant is to lead the Coast Guard's approximately 55,000 Active Duty, reserve, and civilian workers, and approximately 26,000 volunteers in the execution of the Coast Guard's 11 different missions.

From managing vessel traffic, to tackling drug smugglers, to saving lives in rough seas, to protecting endangered marine life, no military service does more with fewer resources. Yet the Coast Guard's mission is only growing. The Coast Guard faces unprecedented environmental and geopolitical challenges.

Due to the increasing threat of climate change, men and women of the Coast Guard must respond to increasing and frequent severe weather disasters. In the Arctic, where melting ice sheets provide new opportunities for shipping and tourism and transportation, it is very important that the Coast Guard play a major role in making sure that we know how and have the capacity for the United States to lead in icebreaking capacity through the Arctic.

Admiral Fagan assumed the role of Vice Commandant in June of 2021, and she led the largest modernization and shipbuilding effort of the Coast Guard fleet since World War II.

But I want people from the Northwest to know she started her career on the *Polar Star*, a 399-foot icebreaker homeported in Seattle. During her career, she served on all seven continents.

She has held numerous leadership positions, including more than 15 years as a marine inspector and commander for Sector New York, commander for Coast Guard District 1 where she led all Coast Guard operations in New England, and Commander of the Pacific Area in charge of Coast Guard operations across the entire Pacific.

She has an impressive science background, with a bachelor's degree in marine science from the Coast Guard Academy and two master's degrees—one of which is from the University of Washington—in marine affairs.

In addition to her extraordinary qualifications, Admiral Fagan will be the first woman and mother to lead the Coast Guard. She will also be the first woman to lead any branch of our armed services.

Now, more than ever, we must have a strong, tested leader as Commandant. It is clear from her record that Admiral Fagan is the right woman to do her job.

I look forward to working with her to ensure the men and women of the Coast Guard have the tools they need to execute their mission and support their families. And it means continuing to make investments on shore infrastructure, aircraft, and, as I mentioned earlier, our polar icebreakers.

But just as we have fought hard to work with the Coast Guard and their people, it is time to work with Commandant Fagan to continue the hard work to expand paid family leave policies, to improve access to childcare, to champion efforts to retain women and underrepresented minorities serving in the Coast Guard.

Recently, we helped secure $429 million for the Coast Guard infrastructure in the infrastructure bill and $120 million of that investment will go to construction of onsite childcare facilities.

As our working mothers and working daughters serve in the Coast Guard, Admiral Fagan knows the realities of a