

[Rollcall Vote No. 503 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Burr	Kennedy	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cornyn	Menendez	Thune
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tillis
Crapo	Moran	Toomey
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Daines	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Hoeben	Paul
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Hagerty	Lee	Tuberville
Hawley	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Cassidy	Fischer	Rounds
Cramer	Johnson	
Ernst	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.
(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

VOTE ON TOLUI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Toloui nomination?

Mr. WARNER. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 504 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Barrasso	Carper	Durbin
Bennet	Casey	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Collins	Graham
Blunt	Coons	Grassley
Booker	Cornyn	Hassan
Brown	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Burr	Crapo	Hickenlooper
Cantwell	Cruz	Hirono
Capito	Daines	Hoeben

Hyde-Smith	Murray	Stabenow
Inhofe	Ossoff	Sullivan
Kaine	Padilla	Tester
Kelly	Paul	Thune
Kennedy	Peters	Tillis
King	Portman	Toomey
Klobuchar	Reed	Van Hollen
Lujan	Romney	Warner
Manchin	Rosen	Warnock
Markey	Rubio	Warren
McConnell	Sanders	Whitehouse
Menendez	Schatz	Wicker
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Moran	Shaheen	Young
Murkowski	Sinema	
Murphy	Smith	

NAYS—13

Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Braun	Lee	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	
Hagerty	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—11

Cassidy	Fischer	Risch
Cramer	Johnson	Rounds
Ernst	Leahy	Shelby
Feinstein	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.
(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

VOTE ON HUSSAIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hussain nomination?

Mr. WARNER. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 505 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Merkley
Bennet	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Hassan	Murphy
Blunt	Hawley	Murray
Booker	Heinrich	Ossoff
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Brown	Hirono	Peters
Burr	Hoeben	Portman
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Capito	Inhofe	Romney
Cardin	Kaine	Rosen
Carper	Kelly	Rubio
Casey	Kennedy	Sanders
Collins	King	Sasse
Coons	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cornyn	Lankford	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lujan	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Manchin	Shaheen
Cruz	Markey	Sinema
Daines	Marshall	Smith
Duckworth	McConnell	Stabenow

Sullivan	Van Hollen	Wicker
Tester	Warner	Wyden
Thune	Warnock	Young
Tillis	Warren	
Toomey	Whitehouse	

NAYS—5

Braun	Paul	Tuberville
Hagerty	Shelby	

NOT VOTING—10

Cassidy	Fischer	Risch
Cramer	Johnson	Rounds
Ernst	Leahy	
Feinstein	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.
(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSOFF). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Delaware.

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS ACT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3537, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3537) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read a third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3537) was passed.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight because I want to remind our colleagues and the people of the United States of America that we did pass an infrastructure bill, and it was bipartisan.

But we are here tonight because the very people that it takes to implement that bill, the very people that work at the Department of Commerce, the very people who work at the Department of Transportation are being held up in not

being able to be fully confirmed by this body to do the work that it takes to implement that legislation.

I know this is incredibly important to people across the United States of America because we know how popular that bill was. My colleagues are with me tonight—two members of the Commerce Committee—who worked hard and contributed mightily to the Surface Transportation Act that passed out of the Commerce Committee in a robust bipartisan fashion to come here to the floor. It was added with other legislation from other committees.

So we are here tonight—myself, my colleague from Montana, who has a State as big as any State in the United States. It probably is the largest State. All I know is it takes me at least an hour to fly over it. So I guarantee you that is a lot of roads, that is a lot of bridges, that is a lot of railroad, that is a lot of infrastructure. If it is not fixed and it is not taken care of, then the Montana economy is hurt.

My colleague from Wisconsin is here, and she played a major role in the infrastructure bill as well. She made sure that we focused on at-grade crossings and the safety of our rail system. Why? Because we have to move products from the Midwest to reach Asian markets. If they can't get there because they are stuck in congestion, then, we aren't going to be competitive as a nation.

It is ridiculous that we are in this position tonight, ridiculous that there are dozens of nominees from the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce that the majority of our colleagues support, but they are being held up by one or two people who don't want to see them move through the process.

I am talking about nominees that are part of the Federal Railroad Administration—the Administrator. We are giving a bunch of money to the Federal Railroad Administration so they can put grants out, authorize this new program for at-grade crossings to improve the speed of moving our product, and people don't want the FRA, or the Federal Railroad Administration, to have an Administrator. I don't know what possibly could be wrong with that.

Someone doesn't want us to have the CFO for the Department of Transportation. The CFO—you don't want us to have a CFO? How political could the CFO of the Department of Transportation be? I guarantee you, not very political. The CFO is a person who is going to make sure that we spend the money correctly, administer the new programs as they get set up, and make sure the money goes out the door. It is hard to imagine a lot of money will go out the door of the Department of Transportation if we don't have a CFO.

There are other people here that are part of the transportation system on analysis. There are people I am pretty sure my colleague from Montana will talk about.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—why? Again, because I

guarantee you there are a lot of trucks in Montana. There is a lot of moving of product. You have to have trucking safety, and you have to have help in administering that. And if you have to have help administering that, then, you need to have an Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

These are basic positions. These are positions that are part of the infrastructure that we need for the Department of Transportation and, as I mentioned, the Department of Commerce. These are issues that are important to us.

Let me just say a few words about Commerce nominees. We have someone who is supposed to do the analysis of industry for the Department of Commerce. We have someone who is supposed to help us with trade and international matters.

I am pretty sure my colleague from Florida, who is objecting to some of these nominees, is going to say: It is about the supply chain.

These are the very people that we need for the supply chain. You need the analysis and the construct of the Department of Commerce to say: These are the problems that we have with the Department moving forward on various issues that we have with a major focus on our infrastructure.

The infrastructure bill provided \$1.2 trillion in funding for transportation, for energy, for disparities that we have in our infrastructure and that has to get spent, and it has to get spent as soon as possible.

Markets in China and India are expected to be worth \$26 trillion by 2030, but some people think: Well, we will just take that money we gave to move ahead on our infrastructure—something that has been dilapidated for a long time.

That is what people don't understand. Over several administrations, our investment in transportation infrastructure fell to less than 1 percent of GDP, and we didn't correct it. The last administration didn't correct it, but this administration came in—a Democratic administration—and said we are going to correct that because economists will tell you that you are not keeping pace if your infrastructure investment is less than 1 percent. Now President Biden is going to get that number up over the next several years, and that is the kind of investment we need to make.

We don't need to slow down because there is a big world economy, and 95 percent of consumers live outside the United States. But, OK, let's just take our sweet time in implementing this bill and getting U.S. products to international markets, when 95 percent of consumers are outside the United States. Let's just take our sweet time because someone wants to object to these nominees—the CFO, the Administrator, these people who have been moved out of committee in a bipartisan fashion.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime, once-in-a-generation investment that we have to make. But they have to have people over there to make the investment and they have to have people to be fully staffed. And we have to make sure that these important steps that the President is taking on supply chain are met. That is why these issues of working on various logistics of operations, of pricing, of transparency, and overseeing shippers and making sure that some of our largest shippers are committed to moving cargo during off-peak hours are important.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle know how important agricultural products being delivered to market on time is. And we need to make sure that our farmers, our people who have U.S.-manufactured products, like in the State of Wisconsin, are getting a fair deal on their shipping.

And that is why we also have to have the nominee for the Federal Maritime Commission and get somebody on the Commission who is going to hold people accountable to make sure that our products get somewhere safely and securely and in a timely fashion.

So these issues that we are facing on the supply chain are complex. They are not going to be fixed overnight, but they have to have people in the jobs. They have to have people who are going to answer the questions, work together, and to get this done.

So I would ask my colleagues, who I know are going to join me in making several nominations, I ask unanimous consent to consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 315, Karen Jean Hedlund, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2025; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hedlund nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 550, Max Veckich to be the Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Reserving the right to object, as my colleague is aware, I have an outstanding request with the Commerce Committee, which