

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the Lee amendment to the title be considered and agreed to, the title, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 5046) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the "Special Relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas, according to "Sterling Assets," a report from the Confederation of British Industry, the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership and strong labor ties, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen those ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive trade agreement since May 2020;

Whereas the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the United States economy by improving United States opportunities for trade and investment with the European Union;

Whereas the economic relationship of the United States and the European Union is the largest and most complex in the world, with over \$1,100,000,000,000 in annual two-way trade;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and the European Union have engaged in substantive negotiations toward the conclusion of a trade agreement;

Whereas the United States has historically acted as a guarantor of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, an agreement between the British and Irish governments, designed to protect peace in Northern Ireland by avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Charles Michel signed the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on January 24, 2020;

Whereas as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, in order to protect the Good Friday Agreement in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the two parties agreed to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making trade agreements with foreign nations rests with Congress: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment (No. 5047) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union."

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 134

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the "Special Relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas, according to "Sterling Assets," a report from the Confederation of British Industry, the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership and strong labor ties, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen those ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive trade agreement since May 2020;

Whereas the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the United States economy by improving United States opportunities for trade and investment with the European Union;

Whereas the economic relationship of the United States and the European Union is the largest and most complex in the world, with over \$1,100,000,000,000 in annual two-way trade;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and the European Union have engaged in substantive negotiations toward the conclusion of a trade agreement;

Whereas the United States has historically acted as a guarantor of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, an agreement between the British and Irish governments, designed to protect peace in Northern Ireland by avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Charles Michel signed the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on January 24, 2020;

Whereas as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, in order to protect the Good Friday Agreement in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the two parties agreed to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making trade agreements with foreign nations rests with Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and

economic partnership with the United Kingdom that takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met;

(2) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the European Union by working to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement;

(3) the President, in consultation with Congress, should work to conclude negotiations for such comprehensive trade agreements contingent upon an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that fully protects and preserves the Good Friday Agreement consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Senate in S. Res. 117 (117th Congress); and

(4) the President, in consultation with Congress, should strive to reach mutually advantageous resolutions of commercial disagreements between the United States and the United Kingdom, including ending the Digital Services Tax on United States businesses and ensuring a satisfactory final resolution to the World Trade Organization large civil aircraft dispute.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 923, Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; 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; 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 clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 717, the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Harris nomination, which the clerk will now report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

## VOTE ON HARRIS NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Ex.]

## YEAS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

## NAYS—46

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Risch	

## NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Cruz	Murkowski
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). 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 action.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## GUATEMALAN ATTORNEY GENERAL MARIA CONSUELO PORRAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many hoped that President Giammattei would reject the corruption and impunity that his predecessors institutionalized. The reappointment of Attorney General Porras, who according to the State Department has “repeatedly obstructed and undermined anti-corruption investigations,” shows that it is business as usual.

Democracy cannot survive without an independent judiciary, which Attorney General Porras has sought to dismantle by persecuting prosecutors and judges who have stood up for the principle that no one is above the law. As long as this continues, Guatemala's government is not a serious anti-corruption partner of the United States.

## BETA TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a person wandering up Church Street or jogging down on the shores of Lake Champlain on a crisp, snowy day in Burlington, VT, this past winter could have glanced up at the sky and seen an angular, white aircraft gliding through the air. It is called the *Alia* and is an electric aircraft modeled after an Arctic tern that has been designed and manufactured by Beta Technologies.

At their headquarters, located beside the Burlington International Airport in South Burlington, Beta Technologies has been “quietly” revolutionizing the aviation industry by designing an environmentally friendly, rechargeable, and, yes, quiet, electric aircraft that can vertically take off and land without a runway. It is incredible technology that has game-changing applications for the domestic shipping industry, private transportation, and the military. Their research, production, and testing has been supported by dozens of private investors, several public companies, and funding appropriated by the Appropriations Committee to the Air Force's AFWERX Agility Prime program. The Agility Prime program was launched in 2020 in an effort to encourage private commercial development of the electric vertical takeoff and landing—eVTOL—aircraft industry.

I am proud of the innovative work that Beta Technologies does in Vermont. The company employs a workforce of over 350 employees and is growing, employing veterans, pilots, engineers, and technicians. The company is enriching the engineering and technology community of Vermont. I am excited about the potential for Beta's aircrafts and look forward to supporting their work in the future.

On April 16, 2022, The New York Times published an article on the innovative work of Beta Technologies, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 16, 2022]

## THE BATTERY THAT FLIES

(By Ben Ryder Howe)

KITTY HAWK.—The invention of the jet engine. And on a frozen Vermont morning, circling above Lake Champlain, the *Alia*.

In the mind of Christopher Caputo, a pilot, each moment signals a paradigm shift in aviation. “You're looking at history,” Mr. Caputo said recently, speaking from the cockpit of a plane trailing the *Alia* at close distance. It had an exotic, almost whimsical shape, like an Alexander Calder sculpture, and it banked and climbed in near silence.

It is, essentially, a flying battery. And it represented a long-held aviation goal: an aircraft with no need for jet fuel and therefore no carbon emissions, a plane that could take off and land without a runway and quietly hop from recharging station to recharging station, like a large drone.

The *Alia* was made by Beta Technologies, where Mr. Caputo is a flight instructor. A five-year-old start-up that is unusual in many respects, the company is the brainchild of Martine Rothblatt, the founder of Sirius XM and pharmaceutical company United Therapeutics, and Kyle Clark, a Harvard-trained engineer and former professional hockey player. It has a unique mission, focused on cargo rather than passengers. And despite raising a formidable treasure chest in capital, it is based in Burlington, Vt., population 45,000, roughly 2,500 miles from Silicon Valley.

A battery-powered aircraft with no internal combustion has been a goal of engineers ever since the Wright brothers. Larry Page, the Google co-founder, has been funding electric plane start-ups for over a decade. Electric motors have the virtue of being smaller, allowing more of them to be fitted on a plane and making it easier to design systems with vertical lift. However, batteries are heavy, planes need to be light, and for most of the last century, the e-plane was thought to be beyond reach.

That changed with the extraordinary gains in aviation technology realized since the 1990s. Late last year, curious about the potential of so-called green aviation, I flew in a Pipistrel Alpha Electro, a sleek new Slovenian two-seater designed for flight training. The Electro looks and flies like an ordinary light aircraft, but absent the roar of internal combustion, its single propeller makes a sound like beating wings. “Whoa!” I exclaimed when its high-torque engine caused it to practically leap off the runway.

However, the Electro's power supply lasts only about an hour. After ours nearly ran out, I wondered how many people would enjoy flying in an electric plane. That take off is fun. But then you do start to worry about the landing.

Despite the excitement about e-planes, the Federal Aviation Administration has never certified electric propulsion as safe for commercial use. Companies expect that to change in the coming years, but only gradually, as safety concerns are worked out. As that process occurs, new forms of aviation are likely to appear, planes never seen before outside of testing grounds. Those planes will have limitations as to how far and fast they can fly, but they will do things other planes can't, like hover and take off from “runways in the sky.”

They will also, perhaps most importantly for an industry dependent on fossil fuels, cut down on commercial aviation's enormous contribution to climate change, currently calculated as 3 to 4 percent of greenhouse gases globally.

“It's gross,” Mr. Clark said. “If we don't, the consequences are that we'll destroy the planet.”