

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 23, 2025, and Thursday, July 24, 2025

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Paul, Scott, Curtis, Cornyn, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, and Rosen.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

The Chairman: The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

We have as usual a little turmoil this morning as we have a business meeting to start with. We have on the agenda three nominations which we have previously heard.

Then we are going to go to a policy hearing on transnational criminal organizations in the Americas, and since we have a quorum to proceed with voting, we are going to take up the nomination of John Arrigo of Florida to be ambassador to the Portuguese Republic.

Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded, perhaps.

Senator Scott of Florida: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded, that we send Mr. Arrigo to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Is there debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no debate --

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Senator Shaheen: I would like a roll call vote.

The Chairman: Senator Shaheen has asked for a roll call vote. That will be granted, and the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

Senator Rosen: I am here.

Senator Shaheen: Oh, I am sorry.

[Laughter.]

Senator Shaheen: I am just reading from my list.

Senator Rosen: [Off mic] vote no but --

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The Chairman: You are being recorded as no in person.

The Clerk: Mr. Chair?

The Chairman: Aye. Clerk to report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 13. The noes are nine.

The Chairman: The motion has passed, and Mr. Arrigo will be sent to the floor with a do pass.

We now have Christine Toretta of Pennsylvania to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Is there a motion to send her to the floor?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved. Second?

Senator McCormick: Second.

The Chairman: And that we send her to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Is there debate?

Senator Shaheen: No, but I would like a roll call.

The Chairman: And Senator Shaheen has asked for a roll call vote. There will be a roll call vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

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Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

Senator Daines, did you want to be recorded in present?

Senator Daines: Yes.

The Chairman: Senator Daines will be recorded aye in person.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 15 and the noes are seven.

The Chairman: The motion has passed, and Ms. Toretta will be referred to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

The last one we have on the calendar is Michael G. Waltz. There has been a request to hold this. I am going to recess the business committee meeting until further notice as we consider Mr. Waltz further.

With that, we will move to the hearing.

[Whereupon, the business meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. until further notice by the Chairman.]

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Thursday, July 24, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee reconvened, at 11:42 a.m., room S—116, the Capitol, Hon. James E. Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Paul, Scott, Shaheen, Murphy, Kaine, and Rosen.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

The Chairman: The United States Committee -- Foreign Relations Committee -- the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

We have one item, and that is the nomination of Mr. Mike Waltz to be representative of the United States to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, the representative to the U.N. Security Council, and the representative to the Sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

Is there debate or a motion?

Senator Scott of Florida: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Senator Scott of Florida: Seconded.

The Chairman: Seconded that we send him to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

Is there debate?

Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank you for your consideration and patience as the committee has weighed today's nomination.

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As I think most of my colleagues know, I disagree with Mike Waltz on some issues including his use of the unclassified systems to coordinate sensitive discussions.

But I do intend to vote for Mr. Waltz today. I think he represents a moderating force within the Administration. He has a distinguished record of military service, and he has an extensive background in national security policymaking.

Mr. Waltz did not represent himself to me as someone who wants to retreat from the world, and I think that is particularly important at this time.

That said, I do intend to hold him accountable through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's oversight role in the months and years ahead and make sure that he lives up to the impression and the statements that he has made to this committee.

I am also pleased to know that the Administration has decided that it is going to distribute \$75 million in lifesaving assistance.

The aid will go to two important organizations who have longstanding bipartisan support, the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration, and I believe that saving lives through American assistance globally is not only the right thing to do, but it advances our national security and economic interests around the world.

So, again, looking at the China report that we produced last week, I think the United States should continue using its tools of soft power to influence foreign partners and create a safer, more stable world that our citizens benefit from.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this, even though it took a little longer than you -- thank you so much for considering it. We appreciate that.

So is there further debate?

[No response.]

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The Chairman: If no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12. The noes are 10.

The Chairman: The motion is passed. The nomination will be referred to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

With that, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]