

Chairman Ron Wyden's Opening Statement  
Nominations Hearing 12.17.13

- The Committee now moves to consider four very well qualified nominees.
- Janice Schneider has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management.
- Ms. Schneider is currently a partner with the law firm of Latham and Watkins, where she chairs the firm's Environment, Land, and Resources Department, and she co-chairs the energy and infrastructure project siting practice.
- She was Counselor to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes, from 2000 to 2001, and was a trial attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Justice Department from 1998 through 1999.
- Neil Kornze has been nominated to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
- He's been the senior advisor in the Bureau of Land Management since January of 2011, its Acting Deputy Director for Policy and Programs since October 2011, and its Principal Deputy since March 1 of this year.
- Before joining the Department of the Interior, Mr. Kornze held a succession of increasingly senior positions in the office of Majority Leader Reid from 2003 to 2011. And we're pleased that the Majority Leader is joining us here this morning.

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- Marc Kastner has been nominated to be the Director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy.
  - The doctor is a physicist who has been on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the past 40 years.
  - He became a full professor in 1989, the head of the Physics Department in 1998, and has been the Dean of the School of Science since 2007.
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- Dr. Ellen Williams has been nominated to be the Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy at the Department of Energy.
  - She is currently on leave from the University of Maryland, where she has been a professor of physics since 1991.
  - Since 2010, she has been the Chief Scientist for BP.
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- My view is that all four of the nominees are highly qualified for the positions they have been nominated for.
  - I look forward to learning more about their thoughts on key issues.