

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Wyden

Thursday, December 12, 2013

9:00 a.m.; SD-366

- Today we meet to consider four nominations:
- In addition, we will hold a hearing to consider 4 additional nominations:
 - Dr. Franklin M. Orr, to be the Under Secretary for Science;
 - Mr. Jonathan Elkind, to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs;
 - Ms. Rhea S. Suh, to be the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and
 - Mr. Tommy Beaudreau, to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget.
- My view is these are four very well qualified nominees.

Franklin Orr

- Franklin Orr has been nominated to be the Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy.
- The office of Under Secretary for Science was originally established to oversee the Department of Energy's research and development programs.
- Secretary Moniz has expanded the office's role to encompass both science and energy programs.
- I'm of the view that Dr. Orr is a fellow with credentials as broad as the expanded scope of the office he has been nominated to fill.
- He is also a Stanford fellow, which I'm sort of predisposed, sort of with my history that my mom was a librarian there and I came there after starting at Cal, so we're glad you're here.

Jonathan Elkind

- Jonathan Elkind has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs.
- Mr. Elkind has been the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs since June 2009, and has served as the Acting Secretary since earlier this year.

- Before joining the Department of Energy in 2009, Mr. Elkind was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he focused on energy security and foreign policy.
- He has also worked in the private sector. We're very glad to have you as well.

Rhea Suh

- Rhea Suh has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- She has been the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget for the past four years.
- She previously worked for the Hewlett and the Packard Foundations and served as a senior legislative assistant to Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. We look forward to talking with you, Ms. Suh. You have one big challenge on your hands as you know. Sen. Murkowski and I have in a bipartisan way made it a priority to explore how we're going to fund the parks for the future, so we're looking forward to exploring that with you as well.

Tommy Beaudreau

- Tommy Beaudreau has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget, the job vacated by Ms. Suh if she is confirmed in the position she's being considered for.
 - Mr. Beaudreau has been the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management since 2011, and is currently serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
 - You were previously a partner in the law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson.
 - Like our other nominees this morning we enjoyed visiting with you, think you're very well qualified and we're going to be very interested in the three parts of the job that you're going to be focused on, policy, management and budget, and we're going to ask some questions about how we can look to that position to tackle one of the issues that I, Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Landrieu feel very strongly about, and that's Revenue sharing.
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- I believe all four of the nominees are highly qualified for the positions you have been nominated for.
- I look forward to learning more about your thoughts on key issues this morning.