

include a discussion of how China could be more constructive, including the possibility of additional sanctions on North Korea to try to get some sort of pressure on the North Koreans to do the right thing and back off their nuclear program.

We also talked about trade. To level the playing field, we need trade, particularly allowing U.S. companies to have the ability to do what Chinese companies can do here in this country. And my colleague talked a little about that this evening.

I will say—because he mentioned the issue of opioids—there is another topic that I hope President Trump will raise with President Xi, and that is this issue of synthetic heroin being produced in China, which actually comes into our communities. In Denver, CO, or in Columbus, OH, we have through the mail system these poisons coming in, synthetic heroin coming through the mail from China.

We are told by law enforcement officials that most of these laboratories are in China. These are evil scientists in China who are making this incredibly potent, dangerous drug. It is 30 to 50 times more powerful than heroin. Three flakes of it can kill you. They are putting it into packages and sending it into our communities through the mail.

It is a topic that I hope comes up—in addition to the very important ones that my colleague has raised and we talked about in the hearing last week—which is: How do you get China to actually crack down on these laboratories? And how do you get them to schedule these drugs so that they are illegal in China, to ensure the inputs into the laboratories and the final drug itself?

By the way, the Chinese should have a strong interest in this because, I will guarantee you, there are people in China who are also becoming addicted to opioids because of this inexpensive, incredibly dangerous synthetic heroin that is being promoted by these Chinese scientists.

My hope is that this will be a successful summit and among the very important issues raised is this opioid issue, which is so important to our communities.

THE “DELTA QUEEN”

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I also wanted to talk briefly, if I could, about the legislation we just passed, S. 89. It has to do with the *Delta Queen*. The *Delta Queen* is a wooden ship that is very important to my community of Cincinnati. It is part of our Queen City heritage.

The boat was actually in Cincinnati during my childhood. From 1946 until 1985, it called Cincinnati home. It is a beautiful paddle wheeler, and people love to get on it and go down the Mississippi River.

It is no longer docked in Cincinnati, which is why the folks in Missouri were

interested in this legislation tonight too. We just had a big vote, over 80 votes in favor of simply saying, for the first time since 2008: Let’s allow people to spend the night on this boat and go overnight on this boat, despite the fact that there is legislation called the 1966 Safety at Sea law, which prohibits wooden boats of a certain size from carrying overnight passengers. Let’s make an exception here because the *Delta Queen* is willing to undergo the kind of renovations that are necessary to make it safe. It also requires new safety requirements for the *Delta Queen* going forward.

So I really appreciate the fact this vote was taken tonight. It is about a treasured part of our history. It is also about the economy because it will produce tourism and economic advancements all along the river everywhere the river stops, including in my hometown of Cincinnati. We are going to welcome the *Delta Queen* back if this legislation can be enacted into law.

It is now going over to the House. It is in committee there. We hope that the House will do as the Senate did tonight and pass this legislation.

This is my button. It says “Save the *Delta Queen*,” which I am not going to wear on the floor of the Senate because of the rules. It doesn’t mean I don’t care.

I thank my colleagues tonight for helping us to be able to get this legislation through.

NOMINATION OF ELAINE DUKE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to talk briefly about a nomination that is coming before us this week. This is for Elaine Duke to be the Deputy Homeland Security Secretary.

This is an incredibly important job. Some of you remember the Homeland Security Department was made up of about 23 different departments and agencies coming together. It is a huge management challenge. The key job of the Deputy Secretary is to try to manage all of that.

We are very fortunate that Elaine Duke is willing to step forward and take on this responsibility. My hope is that we will have a bipartisan vote here on the floor of the Senate for her confirmation and that we do it quickly this week because they need her there.

She came before our Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs last month. We had a very productive hearing. I had the honor of introducing her to the committee because she has Ohio roots. We are very proud of those Ohio roots.

She has had a long, distinguished career all across the country in the Federal Government, but she still calls Ohio home, and much of her family continues to reside in Ohio. Her dad, Frank Costanzo, is a first-generation American who still lives in Cleveland, OH. I have also known her uncle, Dominick Costanzo, for over 25 years. He is a friend and a neighbor. Boy, he

is very proud of his niece, as is her whole family.

This family has instilled in her a midwestern work ethic that you see in the great work she has done for the Federal Government over the past 28 years. She has worked as a senior member of various administrations. We are really fortunate that she is willing to now continue to serve.

She started her career as a GS-7 contract specialist for the U.S. Air Force. Over the next 28 years, she assumed bigger and bigger responsibilities in the Air Force, the Navy, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Smithsonian, and finally, the Department of Homeland Security.

In 2008, she was confirmed unanimously by this Senate to serve as the Under Secretary for Management at DHS. In this latest role, she, of course, was a key member of the DHS leadership team for both Secretary Chertoff and Secretary Napolitano, and they strongly support her.

She has earned a reputation for being an expert on issues of contracting, on acquisitions, on procurement, on property management, on organizational change, and on human resources. All of these, as I said earlier, are key issues right now at the Department of Homeland Security, so she will help it to be managed better, which will protect all of us.

Serving in these administrations—both Republican and Democrat—she did earn the respect of folks from both sides of the aisle. I find it interesting that all five previously confirmed DHS Deputy Secretaries have unanimously and strongly recommended her confirmation—all five of the previously confirmed ones. They said in their letter:

Elaine is extraordinarily well-qualified to serve in the position for which she has now been nominated. . . . Elaine knows DHS. She has been a senior leader at DHS under two presidents. She sets an unwavering standard of excellence for all who consider themselves committed to public service.

I look forward to having this vote. I hope we will have resounding support on a bipartisan basis for the nomination.

Secretary Kelly is doing a good job. General Kelly has an incredibly distinguished career. We are fortunate that he has stepped up as Secretary also. He needs her. He needs his deputy in place to help him run the Department, and the men and women serving in DHS today need her on the job.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MAIN STREET FAIRNESS ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Main Street Fairness Act, which will help to create tax parity for passthrough companies, the significant majority of which are small businesses. I was very pleased to be joined by my friend and colleague from Florida, Senator NELSON, in introducing this bipartisan bill.