

thank the people at Treasury who cooperated. I am sorry those who made it so difficult did, but we finally got it done.

So thank you. I think I did that quicker than 30 minutes.

With that, I either yield to Senator DURBIN—well, he doesn't want to speak.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH CHERYL COOMBE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Elizabeth Cheryl Coombe to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Born in Ridgewood, NJ, Ms. Coombe earned her A.B. from Hamilton College in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1992.

After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Diana E. Murphy on the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Ms. Coombe began her public service career as a staff attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 1994 to 1996. There, she focused on the investigation of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., and of abusive market making activities in the Nasdaq Market.

From 1996 to 1997, she worked as a trial attorney in the Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts Section at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Then, between 1998 and 2003, Ms. Coombe served as an assistant U.S. attorney (AUSA) in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Since 2003, Ms. Coombe has held several roles of increasing responsibility in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, including as: AUSA; team leader and Plattsburg office supervisor; deputy criminal chief; criminal chief; and most recently as first assistant U.S. attorney. In her current role, she oversees all criminal, civil, and appellate litigation conducted by more than 50 attorneys throughout the district.

Throughout her 30-year public service career, Ms. Coombe has tried approximately 19 cases before a jury and 20 bench trials.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Coombe as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

With more than 20 years of experience serving as a Federal prosecutor in the Northern District of New York, Ms. Coombe is well-positioned to continue her service to the district on the Federal bench.

I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON COOMBE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coombe nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 312 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Sinema	Vance
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 844, Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Chris-

topher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio Mr. VANCE and the Senator from Missouri Mr. WICKER.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 313 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Manchin	Stabenow	Wicker
Sinema	Vance	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF
ACT OF 2023

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5863 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters.

There being no objection, the committee is discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read a third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5863) was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I thank you for that.

For the folks watching at home, we just passed a significant disaster tax bill, which is critical to helping disaster survivors across the country, and it includes bipartisan legislation that I introduced, along with Senator WYDEN and Senator CASSIDY.

Our Protect Innocent Victims Of Taxation After Fire Act would make sure that individuals, families, and entire communities who have suffered from utility-caused wildfires can receive the full compensation to rebuild their lives without fear that their settlement payments will be subject to taxes.

In my home State of California, over 70,000 people have been impacted by the destruction of the Butte fire, the North Bay fire, and the Camp fire in recent years.

Now, if you can imagine when you are wading through the ashes of your former home and thinking about how you can possibly begin to rebuild, the last thing you should have to worry about is that the government is going to tax the payment from your legal settlement that already fails to cover the full cost of your losses in the first place.

Disaster settlement funds aren't income. It is not an asset. It is compensation for what a family has lost. It is meant to be an opportunity to begin to rebuild your life—an opportunity that should not be diminished because our Tax Code is outdated.

And it is not just for my constituents—my constituents looking to rebuild—utility-caused fires are becoming increasingly common across the Western United States. This bill we just passed would make sure that all recent and future wildfire victims throughout the country have access to their full settlements. That includes those in Oregon and Hawaii who have either reached settlements or are still working through the process with the utilities that caused devastating wildfires.

This measure is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to protect Americans at the most difficult time in their lives.

I want to take a moment to thank Senator CASSIDY and Senator WYDEN for their partnership, as well as my California colleagues in the House, Representatives MIKE THOMPSON and DOUG LAMALFA, for their leadership on the issue in that Chamber. I look forward to seeing the President sign this bill into law as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, while he is on the floor, let me thank Senator PADILLA for our partnership, these many months, and also to Senator CASSIDY. And we Westerners have really strong views about this because the fires of the West today are not your grandfather's fires. They are bigger. They are hotter. They are more powerful. They are leaping over rivers. And the families that my colleague and I are talking about feel like they have been hit by a wrecking ball.

And after getting clobbered, they are saying to themselves, why can't I get a fair shake from the government? Why are they hitting me again, even though I don't have any income—as my colleague has said so well. These are people who have truly been visited by a disaster. Their homes and their businesses are burned. Their possessions and livelihood are gone.

And finally, the Federal Government is showing some common sense. That is what my friend from California has spelled out. Our effort is going to lift a big tax burden off these victims of wildfires and other natural disasters. We are getting rid of a totally unfair tax on legal fees associated with settlements after disasters. And by the way, we are fixing something that went haywire in the Republican's 2017 tax bill.

Now, we have been pushing our colleagues in a bipartisan way for months to do a bill that addresses this and other issues. I see in the Chair another very valuable member of the Finance Committee, our friend from New Hampshire Senator HASSAN. And she and I and others had a bill that got 357 votes in the House of Representatives that included this important legislation that Senator PADILLA and Senator CASSIDY and I have worked on.

I told my colleague that we had our 1,100th townhall meeting where the vic-

tims came and said: Ron, will it ever get done?

And I said: You bet it is going to get done. It is going to get done in the lameduck session.

They said: Why hasn't it happened earlier?

And the reality is, it should have happened earlier because you don't get 357 votes very often over there in the House of Representatives. It doesn't happen by osmosis. It is because my colleagues here are working in a bipartisan way and wanted to get this done.

So, we wanted, frankly, to do more. We wanted to do it earlier. But I say to my colleagues that we are going to keep going on the things from that package that got 357 votes in the House, like research and development expensing, which our friend from New Hampshire has championed, and ending double taxation between the U.S. and Taiwan.

But tonight, is an evening when Senator PADILLA and I have said, finally, after all this waiting, we are going to see relief for these people who have been clobbered by these huge infernos—because that is the only way to describe our fires, Senator PADILLA. These are infernos. It gets hot and dry on the forest floor. Somebody drops a match, maybe there is a lightning strike. Kaboom—and those people are finally tonight, through the work that has been done by my friend from California, and our friend from Louisiana, and a lot of Senators—Senator SCHATZ is another example—we are going to be able to tell folks in the West—it is only 5 o'clock or so in California and Oregon—who have been hit by these big fires, they are going to be able to go to bed tonight with a little relief that the Federal Government has finally come to its senses and made sure that they are not going to have this additional tax burden.

So, I want to thank my friend from California for his good work. He has been a terrific partner. I think it is very fitting that the Senator from New Hampshire is in the Chair because she, more than anybody than I know of on our committee, was really putting in the sweat equity for a bipartisan bill.

This is a good night for the people that we represent in the West. It is a good night for a lot of other people in this country. And I want to thank my colleague and the person who has led us on so many of these issues from New Hampshire, Senator HASSAN, because we are finally getting justice and a fair shake for people who did nothing wrong who have been visited by these fires and these disasters.

And the Federal Government is showing some common sense, which most of them, I think, would agree should have been shown quite some time ago. I thank my friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise in support of the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2024.