

to increase the amount not only of production in this country but the amount of consumption because I believe in the very near future we will start seeing more and more momentum for increasing the blend rate.

Right now, we blend 10 percent ethanol, as I said, in 50 percent of the gasoline in the country. I hope in the future we can increase that to 20 percent. The University of Minnesota completed a study where they compared effects of 10 percent and 20 percent on materials compatibility, driveability—all those types of issues. The result of the data that came from that study was that you can move to a 20-percent blend, a higher blend, an intermediate blend right now and have no impact on any of those issues.

The issue of emissions is still being studied. The renewable energy laboratory in Golden, CO, and the Department of Energy and EPA are undertaking some studies. When that data comes in, I believe it will show what the University of Minnesota study has shown and that is you can go to a higher blend with minimal impact and, in fact, in many cases with a better result; that we should move very quickly. I am going to encourage the administration and continue to try to influence that decisionmaking process in a way that will increase the amount of ethanol that is used in this country so, again, we can achieve the many benefits that I think dependence on American agriculture creates for us as opposed to our dependence upon foreign energy.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:16 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 6, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NEIL SURYAKANT PATEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION, VICE JOHN M. R. KNEUER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES B. CUNNINGHAM, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ISRAEL.

DONALD GENE TEITELBAUM, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

FRANK CHARLES URBANCIC, JR., OF INDIANA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

NANCY M. ZIRKIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2011, VICE MARIA OTERO, TERM EXPIRED.

J. ROBINSON WEST, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2011, (REAPPOINTMENT)

KERRY KENNEDY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2011, VICE LAURIE SUSAN FULTON, TERM EXPIRED.

IKRAM U. KHAN, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2009, VICE HOLLY J. BURKHALTER, TERM EXPIRED.

STEPHEN D. KRASNER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2011, VICE CHARLES EDWARD HORNER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ALEXANDER PASSANTINO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE PAUL DECAMP.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREW TOWNSEND WIENER, OF TEXAS

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LORA ANN BAKER, OF CALIFORNIA
CYNTHIA ANN BIGGS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DARREL WAH CHEW CHING, OF HAWAII
JAMES GOLSEN, OF MARYLAND
VAL EUGENE HUSTON, OF INDIANA
DENNIS A. SIMMONS, OF FLORIDA
DOUGLAS WALLACE, OF MARYLAND
DALE R. WRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC B. WOLFF, OF NORTH CAROLINA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GEOFFREY BOGART, OF CALIFORNIA
JENNIFER KANE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHARLES RAOUF RANADO, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE P. SPILLMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREA L. DOYLE, OF WASHINGTON
MARISSA DENISE SCOTT, OF LOUISIANA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MANOJ S. DESAI, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ERIK R. RIKANSRUD, OF VIRGINIA
CONRAD WAI-PAC WONG, OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PATRICIA M. AGUILO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ANDREA K. ALBERT, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTINA PAULA ALMEIDA, OF RHODE ISLAND
MARIA CECILIA ALVARADO, OF NEW MEXICO
J. DEAN ARKEMA A. OF VIRGINIA

KEVIN BAE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ZANE LEE BARNES, OF CALIFORNIA
BRIAN P. BAUER, OF ILLINOIS

ROBBIE LANEICE BROOKER, OF TEXAS
PETER HEARTH BROWN, OF NEW YORK
JEFFREY ALLEN BUTLER, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA M. BUXTON, OF CALIFORNIA

BRYAN J. CLAYTON, OF VIRGINIA
ANGELA COPER, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS M. COYLE, OF MICHIGAN

PIERCE MICHAEL DAVIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHANEL NICOLE DENNIS, OF DELAWARE

AUSTIN GALE DEVER, OF VIRGINIA
EILEEN F. DI DOMENICO, OF VIRGINIA
KYLE DOTSON, OF VIRGINIA

HANNAH ASHLEY DRAPER, OF ARKANSAS
JONATHAN S. DRUCKER, OF VIRGINIA

JAMES P. DUVERNAY, OF NEW JERSEY
ALICE H. EASTER, OF NEW YORK

CANDACE LYNN FABER, OF WASHINGTON
JOANNA HOPE GANSON, OF NEW YORK

BRIAN HARRY GETTER, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE G. GILLEN, OF VIRGINIA

ASHLEY R. GRAY, OF KENTUCKY
ALEXANDRIA B. HAIDARA, OF COLORADO

ARTHUR J. HALL, JR., OF VIRGINIA
KENT B. HALLBERG, OF VIRGINIA

MARK C. HALLISEY, OF CONNECTICUT
REID T. HAMILTON, OF VIRGINIA

JENNIFER G. HANDOG, OF NEVADA
ANNA M. HARGIS, OF VIRGINIA

RUBEN HARUTUNIAN, OF MARYLAND
RACHEL Y. HAWKINS, OF TENNESSEE

EMILY JEANETTE HICKS, OF TEXAS

ROBERT M. HINES, OF VIRGINIA

RICHARD HOGE, OF VIRGINIA

DONALD J. HOWARD, OF VIRGINIA

ELIZABETH HOWARD, OF FLORIDA

MELISSA D. HUDSON, OF TENNESSEE

AJANI HUSBANDS, OF TEXAS

SIMONE W. JOHNSON, OF MISSOURI

ANTHONY M. JONES, OF VIRGINIA

NICKOLAS A. JORJANI, OF VIRGINIA

CAMERON F. KAH, OF VIRGINIA

HEERA KAUR KAMBOJ, OF NEW YORK

ALLA PAVEL KAMINS, OF VIRGINIA

MARIAH KENDALL WOHLFEIL, OF VIRGINIA

JAMES P. KLAPPS, OF VIRGINIA

STEVEN GEORGE LACEY, OF VIRGINIA

SHEA N. LEAHY, OF VIRGINIA

RACHEL M. LEHR, OF VIRGINIA

JAMES T. LEONG, OF VIRGINIA

ROBERT A. LESTER, OF VIRGINIA

DAVID ANTOINE LEWIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JOSEPH S. LIVINGSTON, OF NEW YORK

PHILLIP LAMAR LOOSLI, OF CALIFORNIA

ADAM JOHN LORBER, OF VIRGINIA

THOMAS JOSEPH LYONS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ERIN L. MACIEL, OF VIRGINIA

KATHERINE K. MARQUIS, OF VIRGINIA

VICTOR LERUN MARSH II, OF MICHIGAN

NICOLE LUCINDA MEWHINNEY MARTIN, OF VIRGINIA

DEVIN V. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA

BETH MINIX, OF VIRGINIA

JONATHAN ANDRE MITCHELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOSHUA SHUN MO, OF VIRGINIA

CHARLES D. MYERS, OF VIRGINIA

ELIZABETH FAWN NEDEFF, OF WASHINGTON

JONATHAN JAMES NELLIS, OF MARYLAND

JOSHUA W. NELSON, OF VIRGINIA

THU HUYNH NGUYEN, OF WASHINGTON

JEFFREY MICHAEL OSWEILER, OF IOWA

JOHN PARK, OF VIRGINIA

JOHN L. PORTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEAN C. POWERS, OF VIRGINIA

ADAM P. PRICE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PABLO BENJAMIN QUINTANILLA, OF MISSOURI

DOMINIC PETER RANDAZZO, OF PENNSYLVANIA

CATHERINE C. REGEN, OF VIRGINIA

BRIAN EDWARD RENTSCH, OF VIRGINIA

KIMBERLY ANN RENTSCH, OF TEXAS

CHRISTINA E. REPP, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JAMES ROLLENS IV, OF LOUISIANA

EDWIN O. RUEDA, OF NORTH CAROLINA

ANGELA SAGER, OF TEXAS

ERIC FULTON SANDERS, OF VIRGINIA

DAVID RYAN SEQUEIRA, OF VIRGINIA

HEIDY SERVIN-BAEZ, OF OREGON

CHRISTOPHER SILKIE, OF CALIFORNIA

SARAH ANNEMARIE SIMONS, OF CALIFORNIA

KRISTEN ANNA SIUDZINSKI, OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL G. SLONAKER, OF MARYLAND

GUY G. SMITH, OF VIRGINIA

GARY E. STANULIS, OF VIRGINIA

TRISHA ANN TAINO, OF VIRGINIA

TOD M. THEDY, OF FLORIDA

STACY L. TOLLISON, OF TEXAS

CYNDEE-NGA TRINH, OF TEXAS

STACEY H. TSAI, OF TEXAS

DALEYA S. UDDIN, OF NEW JERSEY

THOMAS M. VENNEN, OF ILLINOIS

NICOLE M. VERSTRAETE-DISHNER, OF VIRGINIA

ANNY HONG AN TRINH VU, OF CALIFORNIA

MELISSA DANIELLE WALSH, OF OKLAHOMA

MUJAHID A.M.M. WASHINGTON, OF NEW YORK

KELLY A. WATKINS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

ANDREW DAMRON MCBRIDE WATSON, OF VIRGINIA

NATALIE M. WAUGH, OF CALIFORNIA

AMY WEINHOUSE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LAURA M WILLIFORD, OF GEORGIA

MARK DAVID WISEMAN, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION IN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DAVID T. NEWELL, OF FLORIDA

JOHN V.G. SPILSBURY, OF NEW YORK

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

TROY A. LINDQUIST, OF UTAH

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED BY LAW, THE FOLLOWING FOR PERMANENT APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION:

To be lieutenant (junior grade)

BENNIE N. JOHNSON

To be ensign

MARK S. ANDREWS
MEGAN R. GUBERSKI
NATHAN E. WITHERLY
CHRISTINE L. SCHULTZ
CLAIRE V. SURREY
RONALD L. MOYERS, JR.
BRIAN D. PLAYER
GLEN A. RICE
PATRICK M. REDMOND