

In 1997, she left the Federal Reserve to chair the Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration.

Before her appointment to Vice Chairman of the Fed she led the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, keeping watch over financial conditions in the region as well as providing counsel on the direction of monetary policy.

In 2010, she was appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate to be Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve where she has ably served. She has been intimately involved with the Fed's interest rate policy and its continuation of the unprecedented program of quantitative easing.

I believe that this extensive experience working on monetary policy issues at the Federal Reserve will make for a seamless transition to Chairman and provide stability to financial markets.

Recently, a lot of attention is being paid to the issue of growing income inequality in our country.

Over the last few decades, middle-class incomes have stagnated while incomes for high earners have enjoyed a stratospheric rise. Increasingly, the owners of capital are reaping a greater and greater share of the profits, while hard working Americans struggle to keep up.

If this trend continues, it will make for a more volatile economy and put middle and lower income families in increasing financial strain.

Most importantly, if income inequality is really a product of inequality of opportunity, then the United States will no longer deliver on its most fundamental promise, one that serves as the foundation for our social contract.

To me, that outcome is unacceptable, and our leading economic thinkers should be working night and day to ensure that every hard-working American has the opportunity to be successful in this country.

The most direct way to address income inequality is to increase the rate of job creation in the United States. We have made significant progress in the recovery from the great recession, but the recovery has not been robust enough to translate into a robust labor market which increases wages for all Americans.

Dr. Yellen has demonstrated a consistent ability to balance the Fed's mission of increasing employment and maintaining stable inflation. Her academic work suggests that she is keenly aware of the devastating impact of persistently high unemployment, both for families and the economy writ large.

With her keen understanding of economics and a rigorous analytical process and a distinguished career in academia, Dr. Yellen is the right person to lead the Fed at this time.

And let me just say, a woman as Chairman of the Federal Reserve—a talented and extraordinarily well qualified woman—is a positive thing.

I enthusiastically support her nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie Hirono, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp.

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 John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) would vote "aye."

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Durbin	Leahy
Baucus	Feinstein	Levin
Begich	Franken	Manchin
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markey
Blumenthal	Hagan	McCaskill
Booker	Harkin	Menendez
Boxer	Hatch	Merkley
Brown	Heinrich	Mikulski
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Murphy
Cardin	Hirono	Murray
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Nelson
Casey	Kaine	Pryor
Collins	King	Reed
Coons	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Donnelly	Landrieu	Sanders

Schatz	Tester	Warren
Schumer	Udall (CO)	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Udall (NM)	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	

NAYS—39

Ayotte	Enzi	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeben	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cochran	Kirk	Shelby
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Vitter
Cruz	Moran	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Isakson	Reid
Flake	Johanns	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, that 10-minute rollcall took 18 minutes. If people stay on the floor we can move these a lot quicker.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ANDREW KOSKINEN TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue?

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) would vote "aye."

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 36, as follows: