

PRESENTATION OF MARK R. KRAVITZ, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, BY HON. CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Senator DODD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I apologize for getting here a couple minutes late, but I thank the Committee—are you all done, Rick?

Senator SANTORUM. Yes. Have a seat.

Senator DODD. I am going to try to pick up that chair—when you serve in the minority, you get the small chairs here.

[Laughter.]

Senator DODD. Times are tough here.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, for scheduling this hearing for Mark Kravitz, our candidate for the bench in Connecticut.

I was mentioning to a number of people on my staff that I was introducing someone named “Kravitz” today at this hearing, and all of my younger staff got very, very excited—they were under the impression that maybe a guy named “Lenny” was going to show up here—with all due respect, Mark, I apologize.

Anyway, given that I am a member of the minority in the body, I briefly considered that it might be more helpful for Mr. Kravitz’ prospects if I came out strenuously against his nomination, but I decided against that, because on thoughtful reflection, I have come to the conclusion that I can do nothing but enthusiastically support this nominee, and I believe all of you will as well as you get to know Mark Kravitz.

It is a pleasure to introduce him to the Committee. I would also like to welcome his wife Wendy and their children, Jenny, Lindsey, and Evan from Guilford, Connecticut.

It is always a pleasure, of course, to support the nomination of highly-qualified people, Mr. Chairman, who are professionally accomplished judicial nominees who can demonstrate both the ability and the temperament to serve as fair and objective Federal judges. It is especially gratifying to support such nominees when they come from our home State of Connecticut.

I believe that Mr. Kravitz possesses, as you will find, the intellect, experience, and disposition to be an impartial finder of fact, a faithful legal analyst, and a fair and just jurist. I believe that he will bring a balanced and informed perspective to the bench.

His resume, which I am sure you have had a chance to look at, speaks for itself. Mark graduated magna cum laude and phi beta kappa from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He later graduated from Georgetown Law School, where he was managing editor of the Law Review. He clerked for Judge James Hunter of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.

He is currently a partner and head of the appellate practice of the highly-respected law firm of Wiggin and Dana in New Haven, Connecticut, where he has worked since 1976. He has served as lead counsel on more than 60 appeals to the State and Federal courts and has argued before the United States Supreme Court on numerous occasions.

He has been listed as one of the beset lawyers in America since 1991. He has been elected as a fellow to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is also endorsed by the Connecticut Bar Association as "exceptionally well-qualified" to be a District Judge, and has been unanimously rated as "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Mark has represented a very diverse array of clients, Mr. Chairman, over the years, including private institutions such as Yale University and organizations representing public interests such as the Stamford Zoning Board. He has extensive experience with land use law, zoning regulations, and has also published considerable material on the issues of privacy and the evolution of internet law.

He is also very well-respected for his efforts to keep government open and acceptable. He was director of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and in 1995 received the Deane C. Avery Award for advancing the cause of freedom of information and freedom of speech in Connecticut.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is particularly important given the time in which we live, in an age when many are concerned that the desire for national security may lead to the erosion of core American rights such as freedom of speech and information. I believe it is an integral part of our judicial system that we have judges who are of a deep respect and understanding for these Constitutional principles and who will be charged with upholding and defending our Constitution.

Mark Kravitz possesses a deep commitment to these civil liberties, and I know he will be a fine judge. For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the remainder of my remarks be included in the record and highly comment this nomination to you and to the Committee. My colleague Joe Lieberman would do so as well, and I presume he will be submitting a statement to that effect.

This is a wonderful nomination. We thank Governor Rowland, and I think you will find that the entire delegation is strongly behind this nomination. It is a first-class nomination and will do us all very proud.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much for appearing on behalf of Mr. Kravitz, and while you may be in the minority, when it comes to being a great American, you are very much in the majority; you are truly one, and Mr. Kravitz is very fortunate to have you here recommending him today, Chris, so thank you very much.

Senator DODD. Thank you, Saxby, very much.

Chuck, thank you, too.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Senator Snowe?

PRESENTATION OF JOHN A. WOODCOCK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, BY HON. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Senator SNOWE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I thank you for the opportunity today to be able to introduce to you John Woodcock, the President's nominee for Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine in Bangor and to express my strong and unequivocal support for his nomination.