

**Senator Maria Cantwell  
Introduction of Lonny Suko,  
Nominee to the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Washington**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Leahy:

It is a pleasure to be back before the Judiciary Committee today, particularly for the purpose of introducing an excellent nominee to the Federal District Court for Eastern Washington.

Lonny Suko is extremely well qualified to be a federal district judge. He has been a full time federal magistrate judge in Yakima, Washington since 1995. And before that he was a part time magistrate judge from 1971 until 1991. We welcome him here today with a combined 28 years of experience on the federal bench. It seems like it's about time we elevated him to the full status of District Court Judge!

As you have already heard from Senator Murray, Lonny Suko is also a product of the Washington State Judicial Selection Committee. The selection committee process was negotiated between the White House, Senator Murray, and myself. Six qualified members of the legal community in eastern Washington selected by our local Members of Congress and by Senator Murray and myself put in long hours interviewing and selecting three qualified candidates to send to the President. It was with pleasure that we learned that the White House agreed with my judgment and the judgment of Senator Murray that Lonny Suko was the most qualified candidate for this position.

Prior to his full-time work as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, Lonny Suko was also a partner in the firm of Lyon, Weigand & Suko, where his career in private practice involved extensive representation of plaintiffs and defendants in civil litigation as well as extensive mediation experience. Though he has lived in Yakima for the past

thirty years, Mr. Suko has connections throughout Eastern Washington. He is originally from Spokane, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington State University in Pullman and started his legal career as a clerk to Judge Charles L. Powell, who was then the Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Washington in Spokane.

Mr. Chairman, as you continue to confront challenges in the nominations process, I ask you to keep in mind the excellent process we now have working in Washington state. The selection committee provides opportunity for real consultation with Senators and yields highly qualified consensus candidates, such as the nominee before us today.