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**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Event:** [Hearings to Consider Nominees for USTR, HHS, and Treasury](#)  
**Date:** July 31, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Place:** 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

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***Member Toplines:***

[\*Chair Mike Crapo \(R-ID\):\*](#) Crapo opened by thanking the nominees for their willingness to serve and noted the importance of their roles in advancing U.S. interests across trade, health, and finance. He emphasized the value of experience in strengthening U.S. competitiveness, protecting public resources, and ensuring effective implementation of laws and programs. Crapo also underscored the need for timely and transparent communication between federal agencies and Congress.

[\*Ranking Member Ron Wyden \(D-OR\):\*](#) Wyden stressed that the nominees must demonstrate a commitment to accountability, legal integrity, and nonpartisan governance. He expressed concern about past actions by the administration that he believes have undermined public trust in federal agencies, particularly in the areas of health care, trade, and fiscal management. Wyden emphasized that the burden is on the nominees to show they will uphold the law and serve the public interest responsibly.

***Witness Toplines:***

[\*Brian Switzer, Nominee for Deputy U.S. Trade Representative:\*](#) Switzer emphasized that U.S. trade policy must prioritize American workers, national security, and economic resilience in the face of unfair foreign practices and growing geopolitical competition. He called for a trade agenda rooted in reciprocity, protection of intellectual property, and strengthened supply chains, particularly in strategic sectors like semiconductors and critical minerals. Switzer concluded by pledging principled, strategic leadership at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and close coordination with Congress to advance an “America First” trade policy that supports innovation, competitiveness, and shared prosperity.

[\*Gustav Chiarello, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources:\*](#) Chiarello stressed the need to rein in rising health care costs, arguing that increased federal spending has not translated into improved public health outcomes. He outlined a vision for fiscally responsible leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), focused on efficiency, reducing waste, and ensuring better returns on taxpayer investment.

[\*Michael Stuart, Nominee for General Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services:\*](#) Stuart emphasized his deep personal and professional ties to public service, drawing on his background as a U.S. Attorney and West Virginia State Senator to underscore his commitment to rural healthcare, legal integrity, and fighting fraud. Stuart concluded by

expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve and vowed to uphold the law while collaborating closely with Congress to improve the delivery of vital health services.

*Derek Theurer, Nominee for Deputy Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Treasury:*

Theurer emphasized his deep respect for the Senate Finance Committee and his prior experience in congressional and executive roles, including work on major legislation like the *One, Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA). He highlighted his commitment to collaboration, pledging that Treasury's Office of Legislative Affairs would remain open and responsive to congressional oversight. Theurer framed his nomination as an opportunity to continue public service and help strengthen the economy and financial security for American families.

**Major Takeaways:**

- Republicans highlighted energy provisions within the OBBBA and stressed the need for timely, faithful implementation.
  - Sen. **Steve Daines** (R-MT) praised the OBBBA for boosting American baseload power, protecting coal jobs, and supporting energy independence, calling its provisions “jet fuel for the economy.”
  - Sen. **Chuck Grassley** (R-IA) emphasized his role in shaping the wind and solar energy tax credits, saying he worked with colleagues to create an orderly phaseout with a 12-month transition period tied to when projects begin construction. He noted that this standard has been well-established by the Treasury Department for over a decade, urging similar clarity for the Clean Fuels Production Credit.
  - Sen. **Thom Tillis** (R-NC) cautioned that early implementation of energy provisions from the OBBBA appear to deviate from Senate-negotiated language and reflect House Freedom Caucus priorities. He called on the Treasury Department to consult original drafters to uphold legislative intent and avoid undermining trust.
- Members also raised general concerns about U.S. reliance on foreign sources for key energy materials and the need to protect domestic production.
  - Sen. **John Barrasso** (R-WY) warned that Russia is circumventing the U.S. uranium import ban by exporting enriched uranium through China to the U.S. and called for stronger trade enforcement and support for U.S. uranium and critical mineral development.
- Bipartisan interest emerged in addressing foreign environmental and economic practices that disadvantage U.S. industries.
  - Sen. **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-RI) urged the use of trade penalties for countries responsible for ocean plastic pollution and highlighted the competitive disadvantages posed by countries like China that do not enforce environmental safeguards like the U.S.

- Sens. **Todd Young** (R-IN), **Marsha Blackburn** (R-TN), and Tillis, called for stronger U.S. trade enforcement and support for domestic innovation to address intellectual property theft and discriminatory pharmaceutical pricing by countries like China and India.
- Members emphasized the need for equitable, transparent allocation of federal funding.
  - Sen. **James Lankford** (R-OK) questioned the repeated awarding of NIH grants to a narrow set of institutions and called for a more diverse and competitive grant evaluation process.
  - Barrasso cited the OBBBA's Rural Health Transformation Program as a model for delivering federal funds efficiently and avoiding bureaucratic delay.