

CHAIRPERSON: Senator Bob Duff,
Representative Julio Concepcion

SENATORS: Kelly, Kushner, Moore, Looney,
Formica, Hartley, Somers

REPRESENTATIVES: D'Agostino, Godfrey, Kennedy,
Quinn, Vargas, Yaccarino,
Perillo

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Madam Clerk.
Good morning, everyone. I'll officially call to
order the Executive and Legislative Nominations
Committee Public Hearing for Tuesday, March 30th,
2021. We have three nominees on today's agenda.
But before we get started, I know Chairman Duff is
on the road right now heading to Hartford. But any
comments from the Vice-Chair Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): No, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): And what about our Ranking
Member Representative Kennedy?

REP KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Because I know we have a short window. And I wanna
welcome all of our nominees. And let's get it done
today. Thank you, sir.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative.
The first item on the agenda is a House Joint
Resolution confirming Sebastian Lombardi to be a
member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of
Directors. Sebastian, how are you?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: I'm doing very well. Mr.
Chairman. Nice to see you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Good to see you as well. If
you can do me a favor and raise your right hand,
please. Do you promise, swear or affirm to tell the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: I do.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Great. The floor is yours for any opening comments.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: I very much appreciate it. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all of the Members of this Committee. I really do appreciate the opportunity to be with you today. My name is Sebastian Lombardi, I'm honored to appear before you as a nominee for the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Airport Authority.

I would like to first, just thank Speaker Ritter for nominating me for this important role. I do truly value and appreciate his express of confidence.

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to be with you and to share with you some of my background and experience that I think will be a benefit to the Airport Authority. I was born in our state's great capital city. I grew up in Simsbury. And I now reside in my hometown, with my wife and two children.

I departed from Connecticut to go to school, but work my way back over time. So I went to school down in Virginia for college and then worked in Washington DC. In Congress, I was supporting United States Senator at the time. And I focused most of my efforts in support of constituents, and advising the Senator on an array of issues, but mostly in the area of defense, military, homeland security, veterans, energy and some transportation-related issues.

And mostly on the transportation side, it had to do with Homeland Security, really being created post 911. And the Transportation Security Administration TSA being formed at that time. So I was really part of a lot of those efforts down in DC.

At night, when I was done with my time with Senator, I earned a master's degree in government from Johns Hopkins University. But I soon realized that I really didn't wanna be back in Connecticut. So I came back home and went to UConn Law School, as reflected in my written testimony. It was a very good choice. I earned a law degree and got me back to Connecticut. And most importantly, it is where I met my wife. So thank you UConn, for that.

Since becoming a member of the bar I've been practicing law at Day Pitney which is a Connecticut-based law firm. It's a full-service firm, with offices from Miami to Boston. And we just celebrated 100 years of providing legal services in the State of Connecticut, which we're very proud of.

As a partner in our energy group, I assist energy clients in mostly regulatory matters, dealing with the regulated electricity markets. I served as counsel and assistant secretary for a regional association of stakeholders that are better involved in those highly regulated markets. And do a lot of work before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which is located in Washington DC.

So as part of my work over the years, I've been a frequent traveler from Hartford to DC. So I've been through the Bradley Airport quite a number of times, of course for pleasure, but more recently, over the years for business. And I think, you know, having that experience and perspective as a business traveler, I think would be helpful to the board.

I've been involved in leadership positions, I won't take through the list, it's reflected in my written testimony. But as part of those responsibilities, I have served as secretary-treasurer, I have served as Vice-Chair of a number of Committees, both in the region, in the energy field, and at the state and local level in Connecticut as well.

So in all, I believe my background in government service, the leadership positions in the field which I'm practicing, and now my private practice itself in servicing clients, in Connecticut, New England, and throughout the country, where I really work at the intersection of policy and regulation and business, I think will position me well to be able to contribute positively and importantly right away as a member of the Airport Authority.

And it's really through these experiences that I've come to gain a perspective for various regulatory structures and frameworks and in governance arrangements that I think are unique to the Connecticut Airport Authority, and are things that I deal with on a daily basis for my clients.

In my testimony, I remarked that, like the energy industry, the aviation industry is also a very highly regulated industry. So I'm quite familiar with the challenges that presents for the business community.

And I guess lastly, I'll just say that I am -- I'm fully cognizant of the fact that Connecticut Airport Authority is a quasi-public agency, that it has a mission to meet both public and private objectives. And I think it's because of my background both in government and private practice, and now currently, servicing clients that kind of straddle the line, that I believe I have a good skill set to be able to bring to the kind of unique structure that is the Connecticut Airport Authority.

I also wanna just state for the record here, but again, reflected in my written testimony, I'm so proud of the Connecticut Airport Authority's work over the almost nearly decade that has been in existence, due to the Legislature creating the Airport Authority almost a decade ago. And, you know, we've seen, you know, Bradley really take off, you know, both literally and figuratively. And for a success, I really applaud the board, the current

board, the past board, the Executive Director, all the staff and employees of the authority that have done such great work.

Of course, it goes without saying that the airport industry, the airline industry, the aviation industry has taken a major hit over the past year, like so many other industries, but particular to airlines and airports.

And so these are challenging times. And I hope that I can be part of the recovery of not only Connecticut's recovery and economic recovery, but as a big part of that having the airport in Bradley and the other airports that the Airport Authority services, kind of back to where it was pre-pandemic and often running again.

So there are lots of opportunities. I'm very optimistic. It would really be an honor for me to be able to be a Board Member. And I thank you again to this Committee, and Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to be with you today. And I'm happy to take any questions you all may have.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thanks so much, Mr. Lombardi. And congratulations on your nomination. I think it'll be a great asset to the board. Just quickly, wanted to focus a little bit on what you just finished talking about. Which is obviously this year has been a tough year for many industries, including air travel, can you talk a little bit about specific challenges and opportunities? You mentioned both challenges and opportunities. But can you be a little bit more specific on what the board should be focused on over the next year or two?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Yeah. I mean, so if you go back a year from today, and you look at March, April, May of last year, the year prior, so that would have been 2019, marking off of 2019, to those three months in 2020, the user -- the users of the

airport, passenger, and traffic was down 95%. That's not a surprise, since everything was shut down. But even since then, over the past year, you're talking anywhere between down 60 to 70 percent. And the Airport Authority doesn't take -- doesn't rely upon state taxpayer money.

The revenue it receives is through, you know, folks parking at the airport, renting cars, and of course, the airlines coming in, which is really dependent on, you know, passengers, so the landing fees and user fees that the Airport Authority receives is almost 100% depending on traffic and folks flying. And so that's been a huge, huge challenge I know for the authority.

I think Kevin Dillon, the Executive Director, and his staff has done yeoman's work over the last year to try to soften the blow. They've instituted hiring freezes. I know they cut the operating budget. They've received some federal systems, but certainly not enough. And so that's a major challenge.

But, you know, as vaccines are being rolled out, and the Connecticut has done such a wonderful job with that, and hopefully that continues, I think you're gonna see in terms of opportunity - moving forward to your question - you know, some -- there's some kind of demand for leisure travel. I imagine a lot of folks that I'm looking at would like to be able to jump on an airplane and go somewhere with their family, soon, hopefully. And so that will be good.

I think one of the questions that I know Kevin Dillon has had and I share is, what will the future of business travel be. You know, the Bradley Airport has been so helpful to the business community, in Hartford, and in Connecticut, and in even Western Mass. And so, you know, it really will I think dependent a bit on what the future of business travel is going to be. I am hopeful that

it will come back. And that, we'll be able to take advantage of the opportunity.

The one last thing I'll say is even during these times, have been so difficult, and in a very highly competitive industry, such as the airline industry and airports, trying to bring certain airlines to their airports.

Just you've seen probably recent announcements that, you know, beginning of June JetBlue, will be flying direct to Miami. Southwest is flying direct to Nashville. In December, which was still a very challenging time period for the airline industry, JetBlue committed and is going to be running nonstop flights to the, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, and even a direct flight to Cancun.

So even during these times, and have been a major struggle for the Airport Authority, I've been really impressed by the opportunities that they have presented themselves and they've been taken advantage of.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you for that. I will open it up to my Committee Members. I see Representative Quinn's hand up.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Lombardi, congratulations on your nomination. And I know from listening to you that you're gonna do great things on the CAA.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Thank you, sir.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Obviously, international travel has taken a real hit as a result of the pandemic. And I know the number of concessions had been made to lure Aer Lingus to operate their Dublin route.

And I've actually taken that flight. And I'll tell you, it is unbelievably convenient to do that instead of dealing with either JFK or Logan or

Newark on this. But what can the CAA do to ensure that Aer Lingus comes back? And what can we do to expand other route possibilities?

I know London has always been something that has interested Bradley. And having mentioned JetBlue, in their expansions, they've just secured a number of landing slots at London. And while they're not talking about flying from Hartford, it certainly seems like it might be a good fit, particularly with the size of aircraft that they're gonna use. So what do you see the CAA being able to do in that area?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Well, thank you, Representative Quinn. And thank you for your kind words. And a great question I think it's important that the CAA remain focused. And that, you know, it's important for Bradley to continue to have a flight that leaves the firm that gets us to Europe.

So I know that the relationship is very strong with Aer Lingus. I would be a new board member, so I haven't had the opportunity to be part of the non-public and dialogue that has taken place, I look forward to being part of that. I know that Kevin has, and his staff, are squarely focused on maintaining that relationship with the leadership of our board as well. So, I have every confidence that we'll be able to continue that relationship.

In terms of other opportunities, I think you mentioned JetBlue is a very interesting one to me. I look forward to exploring it further with boarding and with staff. Hartford and Bradley have had a very strong relationship over, especially the recent years with JetBlue, I just mentioned, you know, a bunch of new flights that are our JetBlue flights. And I think that's, would be an enormous opportunity to explore. And if that could work out I would -- like you, I would be very happy to see, you know, more routes.

But again, I think Aer Lingus was really the point of that. And to have that at minimum, I think is so important because it becomes a gateway to other cities in Europe. You know, flying into Dublin, you can, of course jump from there to the other places in Europe, which I think is -- to just ensure we have that, I think is probably priority one. But as we come out of the pandemic and other opportunities may arise. So, certainly, we'll be on the lookout Representative Quinn. And I appreciate your good idea about JetBlue maybe being a possibility.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Yeah, thank you. Obviously, from my questioning, I'm a little bit of an aviation enthusiast, and also do a lot of aviation photography. Going a little a far afield here. Bradley is not a friendly airport for aviation enthusiasts. And a number of Connecticut photographers who attempt to photograph aircraft at Bradley, run into all kinds of issues with particularly the state police.

I'd like to sit down with the CAA or the CAA Executive Director and talk about this. I mean, I've photographed airplanes, huge airports all around the country, and I've never experienced the issues that seem to plague Bradley. So I'll just plant that as a seed that it's an airport that attracts enthusiasm, because of the New England Air Museum being right there. And if there's a way to make Bradley more welcoming, I think that would be good for the enthusiasts and good for the airport.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Well, thank you for that. And I know that Kevin is most likely listening. And if he's not, I will be sure to relay the message and ensure that he has an opportunity to sit with you and explore that.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you. I appreciate it. And again, congratulations on your nomination. And I know you're gonna do good things.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Thanks so much. Appreciate it.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative.
Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
Congratulations, Mr. Lombardi on your appointment.
And I just like to always take the opportunity to
when somebody gets appointed to the Airport Board to
quickly throw in my two cents about the fact that we
have one of the largest West Indian communities in
the United States. And anything that can be done to
move along the process for direct flights to
Kingston, Jamaica would be really appreciated.

As a Caribbean American, my family hails from Puerto
Rico. I know we have direct flights to San Juan,
which is great. And I think we should be expanding
a little bit more into the Caribbean. And all those
decisions have to be made in terms of the bottom
line is a lot of thinking that goes into that. And
that, you know, the airlines have to consider, what
the profitability is all that. But if we can move
that process along, I like to encourage it every
time I get an opportunity. And once again,
congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative.
Any other comments from Committee members?
Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Apologies for getting on a little late. Thank you,
Mr. Lombardi, for stepping up. Obviously, we all
support Connecticut airports and travel. I've
advocated -- and I know it'd be hard for
municipalities or large costs but to have a rail
line right to Bradley, if possible. I don't know
what your take are on that. And how do you feel
about it? And if it's feasible?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Thank you very much for the
question. As you likely know that the Airport

Authority is undergoing a major project to establish a Transportation Center that will allow for on-site rental cars and increased parking capability. I think as part of the strategic vision or ideal of that Transportation Center project and future projects, it would be great to have a line that would run directly to the airport.

So I don't know how feasible it is right at this moment; how much work would need to be done, but it is certainly -- I will certainly keep that front of mind and my work if I'm so fortunate to be confirmed. I would be very much interested in having that accessibility. I think it would be an enormous benefit to the region to the economy. So I like you share that idea, and I hope that we can get there one day.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I think it would take some, obviously, take traffic off the road look at. It's already convenient. But it'd be even more convenient, just get on a train from New Haven from Stanford or Harford right into Bradley, or from even Massachusetts, right into Bradley. Hopefully down the road we could do this in federal state, and the Airport Authority.

I know it's laudable. But I know our Department Transportation, Gillette, he likes the idea, he's a big rail guy. But that's all. I wanna thank you for what you're doing. And hopefully, keep that in mind. Obviously, the Legislature will have some part in it. I know it'd be great costs. But I would love to see that done someday. And thank you for stepping up Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: I appreciate the question. And Mr. Chair, if you just don't mind very quickly, I just wanted to agree with Representative Vargas as well. I didn't need to respond to anything but just say that I completely agree. It would be fantastic to have a direct flight like we do have to San Juan right now to Jamaica, given the communities that we

have in Connecticut in the greater Hartford area, especially. So we're here to that, and I hope that we can make that happen.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I have one last question, Mr. Chair, if it's okay. I heard Representative Quinn mentioning Aer Lingus. They're not at Bradley any longer?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Oh no, they are, sir. They are.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Okay.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Yes. It's just that giving that they're very difficult circumstances, both here and especially abroad, there just hasn't been those planes flying in and out really anywhere, not unique to Bradley.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Alright, thank you so much. Thank you for stepping up. And thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative. Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for being here Mr. Lombardi, congratulations on your nomination. You've answered all my questions. But I just wanna thank you for being willing to serve on the Committee. You seem like you have a lot of knowledge going into the appointment. So I think you'll do well into service our airport. So thank you very much, as already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Thank you very much Representative Kennedy.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative. I don't see any more hands up. So with that, Mr. Lombardi, congratulations again on your nomination.

We're looking forward to working with you. But before you go, there's one question we ask every nominee, is there anything in your past that you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee to the Governor or to the State of Connecticut?

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: No, sir.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Great. Thanks so much. Have a wonderful rest of the day.

SEBASTIAN LOMBARDI: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): All right. Next on the agenda, we have item number two, which is House Joint Resolution confirming Gregory - and I apologize, I'm gonna butcher your last name, Greg - Piecuch of Hartford to be a member of the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

GREG PIECUCH: Yes, it's Piecuch. Thank you, Representative.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Good to see you, Greg.

GREG PIECUCH: Good to see you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Before you begin, if you can just raise your right hand. Do you promise to swear -- do you promise, swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

GREG PIECUCH: I do.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Wonderful. The floor is yours.

GREG PIECUCH: All right, thank you. Senator Duff, Representative Concepcion, and honorable Members of the Committee, my name is Greg Piecuch. And it's a pleasure to appear before you this morning as Minority Leader Candelora is nominee for a seat on

the State Elections Enforcement Commission. And I do wanna thank the Minority Leader for his nomination.

By way of background, I've called Connecticut home for just about all of my life. I grew up in Simsbury, I guess its Simsbury Day today. And attended public schools and graduated from Simsbury High School. After that, I attended Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and earned a bachelor's degree in government.

I worked for a year in Boston after that, and then came back home and enrolled at UConn Law School where among other things, I had the honor to serve as an editor of the Connecticut Law Review.

I graduated law school in 2002 and was admitted to the Connecticut bar that fall and I've been in private practice in greater Hartford since. And about two years ago, I was fortunate enough to be able to open my own law firm here in downtown Hartford.

Last fall, I got married. And my wife Kathy and I lived in a brownstone on Capitol Avenue, here in Hartford. I know that some of the recent nominees to the SEC have had valuable experience from with inside the agency and that is a valuable experience. My experience, which I think is just as valuable, is coming from outside of the agency and working for candidates and with political Committees in the field.

For me, this started back in 2000. I was in law school and I volunteered to help my state Senator on his reelection campaign doing all the mundane tasks, stuffing on globes, putting up lawn signs, going to town Committee meetings, and asking for volunteers led drops, everything like that.

Two years later, my Senator was up again for reelection and asked me to be his deputy treasurer.

In hindsight, I know it was a thankless task, but at the time I was ecstatic to be given that opportunity. And over the years, I've continued to stay involved in similar roles, particularly on the treasurer side.

I was the treasurer for many candidate Committees over the years generally on the municipal level. I guess that once you sort of taking on this role, people look to you and ask you to continue with that. For a time I was the treasurer of my town Committee for a olitical Committee, and I was also the secretary of my town Committee which though slightly different from the treasurer side, nonetheless has to monitor all the statutes and make sure your caucuses are noticed on time and follow all the laws and stay on top of that.

On a personal level, I've been a candidate three times twice for municipal office successfully. And I also ran for the Legislature for State Representative seat 2010. And I was a participating candidate in the CEP. So I have first-hand knowledge in terms of how that works, again from the outside. And the daunting task that sometimes first-time candidates will face in signing up for that program.

But throughout all these roles I've learned a lot about our campaign law, whether that be filing deadlines, contribution limits, distinguishing between organizations expenditures versus independent expenditures with qualifying contributions or attribution requirements. And as a lawyer in the group, I often was the one that was asked to go pull out the guidebook and look up what this means what we can do or can't do.

I think that all of that time and experience with that has given me a broader appreciation for how our election laws and our regulatory processes affect and impact the countless volunteers that are out in the field. The vast majority of whom are neither

lawyers nor election experts, but who generally want to get it right follow the law and -- and do it right the first time.

I've also seen firsthand the hard and thankless work of our local registrars and town clerks, moderators and poll workers. And I've come to appreciate how much, that those local volunteers are the backbone of our elections. I believe that the SEEC has an important role to play in safeguarding our elections, and that role spans the entire spectrum, whether that be from education on the compliance side, all the way to enforcement when there are allegations of a violation.

But over the last 20 years, I've seen from the front lines, from my perspective, how our election laws have become more complex, and with that, the SEEC's importance. I'm hopeful that my combined experience outside the agency as a campaign volunteer, and the candidate will bring a valuable point of view and will be an asset to the commission.

I'm thankful for your time this morning. I ask for your support. And would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Greg, thanks so much. And congratulations on your nomination at the group. Incredible work over there. Just one quick question, cause I do appreciate your comments on kind of being that outsider, and seeing things kind of from either a treasurer's point of view or candidates point of view. Are there anything specific that you see that seat can work on to kind of reevaluate, you use the word "complex"?

And I know a lot of treasures, there's a lot of filings and things that you have to do on for seeks approval. So, you know, are there any things specifically that you would look at to see if they can reevaluate?

GREG PIECUCH: Sure. When I got involved 20 years ago, sort of the rule of thumb was, find yourself a good accountant, because they'd make a great campaign treasure. And I think over the years, it's evolved to, "Find yourself a good lawyer." That's who you need to be your campaign treasurer.

I think that just my interface from outside the Commission does a great job with its guidebooks. and it has seminars and other things where if you want to, you know, have a resource to go to you have that. You know, the complexity I think arises from, you know, we now have obviously a publicly financed Clean Elections Program. We have, you know, independent expenditures that sort of come into play after citizens united.

I don't know if that's a function of anybody intentionally saying, "Hey, let's make this more complex for candidates or for treasurers." I think it's just a way that the laws evolved. In terms of specific changes, you know, I wanna get inside the -- inside commission and talk with the staff and talk with fellow Commissioners before making any specific recommendations.

But, you know, I think that, you know, one of the things to think about in terms of -- I'll throw out a couple of examples. For example, if Section A on the reporting forms, we can group together small contributions up to \$50 dollars. And that allows -- you know, you get \$25 dollar [contributor], and I'm talking about a non-CEP or non-participating candidate, to kind of group those together to lessen some of the reporting requirements.

I think it's been \$50 dollars, since I've been doing this for the last 20 years. I think on the federal level, you don't have to itemize the contributions up to say, \$250 dollars. That's probably too high, but for example, zero, can we raise the limit to which we have to disclose some of these smaller

donations being about \$200 dollars. That would probably less than the reporting requirement.

On the expenditure side, again, if you spend literally 55 cents on a stamp, you know, that's something that needs to be itemized. Are there things that we can do to try to simplify some of the reporting requirements? I think sunshine is a particularly important thing in our campaign law. And coming to it now, I'm not exactly sure where that balances, but those are a couple of ideas, and maybe some of the things that we could do to try to maybe simplify some of the reporting.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): That's great. Appreciate that. I'll open it up. Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And congratulations on your nomination. And I agree with you that as an outsider who has campaign experience, I think you're gonna bring in a very good and different perspective to this.

I've been a treasurer myself for both town Committees and individual campaigns. And the system to me seems to have gotten more complicated than less complicated. But I just wanted to comment that -- and on that, and again, congratulate you. And feel that you're bringing a lot of practical experience to this position, and I wish you well in it.

GREG PIECUCH: Thank you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Any other comments from the Committee? Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Sorry about that late hand raise. I just want to echo the comments of Representative Quinn. Mr. Piecuch, right?

GREG PIECUCH: Yes.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): And thank you for your willingness to serve in this, and I do think as someone who's worked on the outside, you will be an asset to this -- of our commission. So I thank you for your time this morning, and turn it back to you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

GREG PIECUCH: Thank you, Representative.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative. Seeing no other hands raised. I just wanted to thank you and congratulate you again for your nomination. And again, for your willingness to serve on this important Committee.

But before you go, something we ask everyone, is there anything in your past that you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee, to the Governor, or to the State of Connecticut?

GREG PIECUCH: No, Mr. Chairman.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): That's great. Thanks so much. Enjoy the rest of your day.

GREG PIECUCH: Thank you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): All right. And then, on the public hearing though, last but not least we have item number three, which is a Senate Joint Resolution, confirming Meghan Hastings of Suffield to be a member of the Milk Regulation Board. Hastings, how are you today?

MEGAN HASTINGS: I'm nervous. How are you?

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Don't be nervous. Before we begin, if you can raise your right hand, please. Do you promise, swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MEGAN HASTINGS: I do.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Wonderful. Go right ahead, if you have any opening statements.

MEGAN HASTINGS: I guess, thank you to everyone for hearing me out today. This is a totally new experience for me. I spent the morning in my barn making Greek yogurt and started bottling milk, but I had to stop to come up here. So this is a big change of pace for me. And it's an honor to be nominated by Governor Lamont for this position.

I'm born and raised on a dairy farm in Suffield Connecticut. We milk right now about 100 cows. We have a dairy processing plant where, in 2009, I decided it would be a great idea to start processing and selling our own dairy products rather than just shipping them off of the farm. So that business has grown steadily to become like my full-time job. I very rarely milk a cow anymore.

So we have a traditional milking parlor. We have a new fancy robotic milker. We have a dairy plant. So I deal with a ton of inspectors and inspections and regulations. And we also have a farm store. And we do beef, so there's, you know, fun stuff with that.

Went to public school here in Suffield Connecticut. Didn't go on to college, I had two children quite young, who are now responsible adults. And says what I've done for the last, you know -- I'm 40 now, so 40 years I've been on the farm doing this. So I don't know what else to tell you. I feel very underqualified compared to everybody else.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): No, not at all. Thank you so much. And congratulations on your nomination.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Thank you. So I guess I've done other things. I've been on the board for Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools since, I looked it up, 2012. So quite a while I was on the board for Hilltop Farm and Suffield Connecticut, another

nonprofit where they're preserving an old barn in the farmland. Which is a really neat place. Everybody should go there, it's beautiful.

But I had to stop doing that. It was like a little too much once we started processing our own milk. So I've done stuff like this in the past. So, I guess if you have any questions, I'll try to answer them.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Sure. Just curious, how has the pandemic affected the milk industry, at least from what you've seen in your own farm?

MEGAN HASTINGS: Processing it and selling it out of the farm store, we had our best year ever. Selling, cause we still sell a bunch of it in bulk, it just leaves in the tanker truck every other day, which was this morning. That went right down the tank as soon as everything started closing and shutting down, which money did come in from the USDA to help balance that out, which was really good. But as far as direct-to-consumer sales for us, last year was the best year we ever had. A lot of new people found us.

We retained a number of the customers but not all of them. Really on May 20 once the state reopened, it started to tailback off at the farm store. But we still retained a lot of new people. But there was a huge -- there was a huge difference between our retail sales and our wholesale sales just bulk milk off the farm. It was like night and day last year. So it was a very interesting comparison.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): I'll open it up. I have no other questions. Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Ms. Hastings, congratulations on your nomination. And don't be nervous.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Thank you.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Don't be nervous. It'll be fine. This is one of those rare days where I actually have a bit of knowledge on the areas that each of our prospective nominees are going into. I'm a lawyer by profession but I actually went to Lyman Hall vo-ag for high school, and spent a couple of Somers at a cousin's dairy farm in Upstate New York.

So, when you mentioned robotic milkers, that fascinates me. What can you tell us about those?

MEGAN HASTINGS: So, our cows have RFID tags now, so it's a chip in their ear tag. And then they have free access to the robotic milker 24 hours a day, whenever they feel like getting milked. Some of them who have recently had a baby would like to get milked, five, six times a day, cause it's relief. And then some that are later on, they're not making as much, sometimes we have to go out and get them and say, "Come on, you haven't been milked today." But it gives the animals a lot more free choice.

And the ones that are being milked in the robotic milk I love it. They just love getting, whenever they feel like it, they make more milk than make better quality milk, I think, because they're happy. And it's very consistent with -- am I supposed to keep talking?

REP. QUINN (82ND): You can keep going.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Okay. So between the traditional parlor and the robotic milker, there's a little bit of difference. When they're in the traditional parlor, we -- it's more hands-on, you have -- I think you know the cows a little better. When they're in the robotic milker, everything's done by computer. And you can look on the computer, it gives you a readout of everything you could ever imagine about this animal. You learn her habits like you would not believe.

They also were pedometers that keep track of their steps, so if somebody is really active, it lets you know. If somebody is not so active, they'll say, "Hey, you should check on this cow." But the cows in the robotic milker love it. And it is fascinating to watch. We have a viewing window, so if anybody wants to come to sit there and watch the cows get milked, come on over. Because when we put this thing in, we spent a lot of time sitting there watching it milk our cows, which was not the most productive thing to do.

But it's really fascinating how quickly the cows became accustomed to it. And they had no -- it was more of a transition for us than them I think.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Well, having been -- having been kicked in the head by a Holstein that wasn't interested in being hooked up. I think if robotic milkers had been around 35 years ago when I was doing it as a teenager that would have been a great thing. What do you see as your role in helping the Milk Regulation Board?

MEGAN HASTINGS: That's a good question, because I'm not totally sure. I came into this a little bit of a weird way. Susan Bysiewicz called me. And couldn't give me a whole lot of information so I tracked it down. I ended up talking to Wayne [Kosmachuk], who explained to me what it was. And oh yeah, that I would be a good candidate because he needed two producers, two processors, and two distributors. And he said, you know, I covered all the bases. So I guess I do a little bit of all of that. And, I don't know, I'm always willing to give my input, so.

REP. QUINN (82ND): No, that's -- that's great.

MEGAN HASTINGS: I don't know what to tell you. I read through the minutes. Looks like stuff I should have a good handle on it, and do the best I can.

REP. QUINN (82ND): No, that's -- that's great. No, I think you're gonna do very well. And I may have to take you up on that opportunity to come up and watch the robotic milker.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Anytime you want.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you.

MEGAN HASTINGS: You're welcome.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Hi, Megan, how are you?

MEGAN HASTINGS: Good. How are you?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Good. Welcome to this. I think you bring a lot to the table. You're fighter. I see how you could have walked away and you didn't, and have built your farm back up to be something, really. Did you expect it to turn out to be the way it's going right now?

MEGAN HASTINGS: No, I didn't. Even my father who's -- you know, father is still around. He's on the farm every day. He's always like, he can't believe it when the cars are just pulling in, and he goes out and talks to customers. He like, never thought it would be like this. And it's been good for all of us, even just a morale boost, you know.

Cause at the end of the day, we're still sitting around going, "Alright, where's the money gonna come from for this piece of equipment? But, you know, we're all in a better frame of mind about it.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): So I do some work with food solutions in New England and the Connecticut Food

System Alliance looking at the dairy, and fisheries and everything sustainable, trying to sustain food in the New England states, seeing what we can pull from all of the states around us to be able to feed people and with dignity for farmers, right. And I've met a lot of farmers who have not been able to make it. And some young farmers getting started.

And the Governor put together a Bill this year that will help new farmers be able to get some funding to buy land. So I'm hoping that there'll be something in this new rescue act to help farmers and work with them. I think you'll be perfect cause you bring -- not only do you bring that experience, you bring that fight to sustain yourself that you understand how important it is to land and what you produce. So congratulations. I know you'll be fine.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Thank you.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): You're welcome, dear. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Senator. We have Representative Kennedy, followed by Representative Yaccarino.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Miss Hastings, for being here. I have to say it's very heartwarming to hear that you had such a fabulous year, especially given everything. So that was just wonderful.

You do bring a wealth of knowledge, at least to me, I've learned so much from you today. So I wanna thank you for that. And you have a lot of enthusiasm going into this position, so congratulations on your nomination. And I think you're gonna be very effective on this board. And I congratulate you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Thank you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative.
Representative Yaccarino

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
you, Miss Hastings. It's impressive, you're -- very
impressive. Ten years ago, I got elected I think 11
years ago, and the dairy farmers for leaving
Connecticut. And you seem to turn an industry
around to the positive with innovation and hard
work. So I just wanna say congratulations. But
also, you're doing well. But how's the industry
itself doing in Connecticut?

MEGAN HASTINGS: It's a very hard state to be a
dairy farmer in, just the cost of living, the cost
of land, the cost, you know, the cost of everything
makes it.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Right.

MEGAN HASTINGS: And we don't have the kind of the
spread-out acreage that, you know, there are in
other parts of the country. But it's a very
rewarding part of the state to be a dairy farmer and
because you are so close to your customer base. And
it's great when people just stop in, "Can I see the
animals?" Because you are -- most parts of our state
we're very close to everyone else. So it's good,
and it's difficult, but it's also, you know, can be
very rewarding, and great.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): So as far as, you know, the
population of dairy farms in Connecticut, I don't
know, I should know, I don't know how many we have.

MEGAN HASTINGS: The last time I knew, I think it
was less than 150. And I am sure it is way less
than that now.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Yeah, I think --

MEGAN HASTINGS: I mean, we're just -- sorry.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): No, no, no, I think that sounds sort of accurate, which I think is probably closer to the 120 and 110.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Probably.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I think you're gonna bring a breath of fresh air. In any industry you have to innovate, you're definitely innovative. And, you know, your cows are healthier. The milk is probably much better. And like Representative Quinn, I'd love to come up someday take a look, you know, take a look around. Do you sell milk there? Do you sell anything else? Butter, or --

MEGAN HASTINGS: Bottled milk, chocolate milk, we make Greek-style yogurt in nine flavors, ricotta. I had been making aged cheese until the pandemic hit and things just went totally haywire. So we kind of stopped doing that for now, taking a step back. And hopefully, this fall into winter I'll start making some cheese again. And then, we also we have a beef herd. So there's a lot going on right now. And summer's our busiest time, all of our wholesale accounts are open and everybody's cranking full bore. So, yeah, a lot of stuff going on.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I appreciate -- I appreciate everything. Keep working hard. I'm sure you have quite a few employees. And, give our best to your family.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Not so much that.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): No?

MEGAN HASTINGS: No, it's mostly family, and then John. John is like the older brother I never wanted. And Troy has been here forever. But yeah, it's like all the family works here.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Well, it's good though.

MEGAN HASTINGS: My kids help me. Yeah.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Well, thank you so much. And we appreciate you stepping up. I think you're gonna do terrific. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Representative. Seeing no other hands up. Ms. Hastings, congratulations again on your nomination. And all of my colleagues' enthusiasm of how well you're going to do on this Committee.

But before you go, there's one question we ask every nominee. Is there anything in your past do you believe might prove embarrassing to this Committee, to the Governor, or to the State of Connecticut?

MEGAN HASTINGS: Nope

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you so much, Ms. Hastings.

MEGAN HASTINGS: Thank you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Have a great rest of the day.

MEGAN HASTINGS: You too.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): With no other items on the public hearing agenda, I will adjourn the public hearing. Madam Clerk, we will wait a couple of seconds before convening the Committee meeting, if that's okay with you.

WENDY FRITZ: Fine.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Let me know when you're ready.

WENDY FRITZ: I'm ready.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): All right, well I'll officially call to order the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 30th, 2021, to order. I see senator Duff. Any comments, Mr. Chairman?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Nope. I'm good. Thank you. Thanks for continuing today, and getting this done so quickly.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thanks. The first item on the agenda is a House Joint Resolution confirming Sebastian Lombardi to be a Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors. Is there a motion?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): So moved.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): First moved by Senator Duff. Second by -- Representative Vargas, was that you? Great.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): That is me.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): And I vote yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Concepcion.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion is a yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Looney. Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly. Representative Kennedy.

REP KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): Representative D'Agostino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Fonfara. Representative -- sorry about that. Senator Formica. Representative Godfrey. Senator Hartley. Senator Kushner.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Senator Hartley.

WENDY FRITZ: Oh, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Hi. Good morning. Senator Hartley in the affirmative. Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more time ma'am, so I can get you on camera.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: I'm still not getting you on camera. Just one moment. I'm sorry, Senator Moore, I'm gonna mute you so that I can get her on camera.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner, one more time, please.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Great, thank you. Senator Moore.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): You're muted.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Yes. One more time mam.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

Sen Moore: Can you hear me, Wendy?

WENDY FRITZ: Yes. Yes, I can.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo. Senator Somers. Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: That's the roll, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Madam Clerk. Second item on the agenda is House Joint Resolution confirming Gregory Piecuch of Hartford to be a member of the State Elections Enforcement Commission. Is there a motion?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): So moved, Mr. Chairman.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Motion moved by Representative Kennedy.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Second.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Second by Representative Vargas. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Longer time, sir, you're not on camera.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Concepcion.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion is a yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Looney. Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly. Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST): D'Agostino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Fonfara. Senator Formica. Representative Godfrey. Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Senator Hartley in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator more votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo. Senator Somers. Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more time, Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you, sir.

WENDY FRITZ: That is your roll.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Madam Clerk.
Third item on the agenda is a Senate Joint
Resolution confirming Megan L. Hastings of Suffield
to be a member of the Milk Regulation Board. Is
there a motion?

REP. QUINN (82ND): So moved.

WENDY FRITZ: Mr. Chair, that is a Senate
Resolution, only Senate and not a Joint Resolution.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Okay. So we're back. It's
a Senate Resolution to confirming Megan L. Hastings
of Suffield to be a member of the Milk Regulation.
Is there a motion?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): So moved. Senator Kushner.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Senator Kushner moved. Is
there a second?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Seconded by Senator Moore.
Any discussion? Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please
call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Can you see me? Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Senator Looney. Senator Kelly. Senator Fonfara. Senator Formica. Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Senator Hartley in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Somers.

That's your roll, Mr. Chair.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thank you, Madam Clerk. And with that being the last item on the agenda, we will recess the meeting till 3:00 PM, and leave votes open till 3:00 PM. So please contact your colleagues letting them know. Is there -- Wendy -- Madam Clerk, is there a date for our next meeting yet?

WENDY FRITZ: There's not. That'll be to be announced.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Wonderful. So TBD for our next meeting, and we will recess until 3:00 PM.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thanks everyone.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you. Bye.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Thank you, Wendy.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Bye. Thanks, everyone.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: You're muted, ma'am. Senator Somers. You're muted.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): There we go.

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah, there we go. Okay.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Okay.

WENDY FRITZ: Wonderful. I have for you, Gregory Piccuch to be a member of SEEC.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Senator Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Sebastian Lombardi be a member of the Connecticut Airport Authority.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Senator Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And the last one is [inaudible] Megan Hastings to be a member of the Milk Regulation Board.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Heather Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Bye-bye.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): Hi Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Hi Representative.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): How are you?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm well. Thanks. Three nominees today. Gregory Piecuch.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Sabastian Lombardi from the Airport Authority.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And Megan Hastings for the Milk Regulation Board -- oh, sorry, no, that's senate only. You're all set.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): Oh, okay great. Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you so much. Bye bye.

REP. PERILLO (113RD): Bye.

WENDY FRITZ: Take care.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Wendy?

WENDY FRITZ: Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Oh hey, I have Marty here.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): So, can you -- hold on, I'm gonna just take off -- hold on, I can't believe I've got -- Hold on. Okay, are you there?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm here. Can you see me?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Hi, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Hi Martin.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): How are you?

WENDY FRITZ: Good. How about you?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Okay. Bob set it up, so I can vote on the agenda today.

WENDY FRITZ: I lost you there.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Yup, lost you there.

WENDY FRITZ: I can hear you. I just can't see you. Okay. Can you see me?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Okay. Ready to vote.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. I have Gregory Piecuch for SEEC.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Can't hear you too well. Let me see.

WENDY FRITZ: Can you hear me better now?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): [inaudible] lost the volume there. Can you adjust it on your end?

WENDY FRITZ: Can you hear me better now?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Can you hear me now?

WENDY FRITZ: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Yeah, I can hear you now. It's better. Yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. Gregory Piecuch for SEEC.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes

WENDY FRITZ: Sebastian Lombardi for the Airport Authority.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And Megan Hastings for the Milk Regulation Board.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. That's all good. Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): We're all set? That's it. Thanks, Wendy. Okay.

WENDY FRITZ: Bye.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Hello.

Hi Wendy. I can't -- I can't hear you.

WENDY FRITZ: I can hear you. I can't see you. But if they have started the session, I can't take your vote. Have they begun?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): I don't think. They have not started yet.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. I can't see you.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): I have my video on.

WENDY FRITZ: All right, hold on. Let me see. Alright, I'm gonna put speaker of you, let's see if that works. Okay. I see just a black space for you to be.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): So I have stopped video.

WENDY FRITZ: And now I see just y our name. Okay, then you could start.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Start video. I turned it off and on.

WENDY FRITZ: I just see a black spot where you are meant to be. And I hear you, no problem. Nothing blocking your camera or anything?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): I don't think so. I don't know. Maybe -- I wonder if having this -- having my laptop makes a difference.

WENDY FRITZ: Well, I have mine connected to my monitor. Votes are open until 3 o'clock.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Yeah. So if the Senate is over by 2 o'clock, I can vote from 2:00 to 3:00? Is that what that is?

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah. That was why we did it, so that Senators could still vote.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): All right. Well, maybe I should go in there and try that later, all right?

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah, that's no problem. I will -- I'll text [Kim] too, to make sure that we get yours.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): All right. Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, sure.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Wendy, you there?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Crazy system, huh?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): I just got my second shot. I'm gonna go into the office soon in another two weeks just to get out of the house.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Yeah.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Are you finishing the -- is the [sound] finished?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): No. It's going on right now.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): All right.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey, are you there?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Hi. I'll talk to you on text only.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Gotcha. All right.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

I'll email you.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): How are you?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm okay. How are you? I was watching the Senate Session. I couldn't take votes because they're in session.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Oh, they're still in?

WENDY FRITZ: Yes. That's why we were open till 3:00 because they anticipated finishing by 2:00.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Yeah, okay. Did they -- did they already eat?

WENDY FRITZ: They're in, so that's why I was just kind of watching it on the TV.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Yeah, I don't mind. Yeah.

WENDY FRITZ: Starting my lunch sooner. So, I was gonna try to make sure that I got everybody's vote once they finished, you know, texting folks that didn't have a chance to vote.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Okay. So you have my cell phone number?

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Okay, good.

WENDY FRITZ: Reach me just in case. But I'm sure I have it on my phone.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Sure. 203 --

WENDY FRITZ: Oh, you know what, don't give it on Zoom, don't give it on Zoom, cause we're still live.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Oh.

WENDY FRITZ: Email it to me. Or you probably have mine.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Well, I'm actually just checking that.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. I'm pretty sure that we have each other's.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): No, I don't.

WENDY FRITZ: Really?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): All right, I'll email it to you.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, sounds great. And I'll make sure that I get yours.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And then delete it.

WENDY FRITZ: Sounds good.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): We will see you later.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, sounds good. Take care there.

Hi, Senator. Hello.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi Wendy, I'm gonna go get the Senator, okay?

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah awesome, I'll be here.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: All right, thank you.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): So, Wendy, as you know, it's old guy, technical inabilities to figure out these new modern computer things.

WENDY FRITZ: What can you do? No worries.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): So what do we have today? We have three?

WENDY FRITZ: Yup, just three.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Do you have to --

WENDY FRITZ: I'm just gonna read them fast because we're on, you know, for public notice.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Okay. Thank you

WENDY FRITZ: Just real quick. Gregory - I don't know how to say his name - Piecuch of Hartford to be a member of SEEC.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Sebastian Lombardi of Simsbury to be a member of the Connecticut Airport Authority.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And lastly, this is a Senate Resolution, so only Senate. Megan Hastings of Suffield to be a member of the Milk Regulation Board.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you. Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, you're all set. Thank you so much, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you very much.

WENDY FRITZ: Have a good one.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Happy to.

WENDY FRITZ: Me too.

Hello.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Hello, how are you?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm well. Thank you.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): What do we got? Two House Joint Resolutions, was it?

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah. There is one Senate Resolution. You've heard House Joint.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): All right. Yes on both.

WENDY FRITZ: We just have to say them cause we're on the public.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Representative Godfrey --

WENDY FRITZ: Gregory Piecuch for SEEC. Did you hear me?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Representative Godfrey votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. Wonderful. And Sebastian Lombardi of Simsbury for the Connecticut Airport Authority.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Representative Godfrey votes yes.

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WENDY FRITZ: Thank you so much.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Thank you. You have a good one.

WENDY FRITZ: And you too. See you.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Bye-bye.