

offices around the Hill is that negotiations are taking place that will get us to a place where we at least have a template, a piece of legislation that can be embraced in the beginning in a bipartisan way, and then what I hope will happen—I know my friend from Delaware will be highly engaged in this, because he has been focused on this for a long time—what I hope happens, after we get the base template together, is that we have a vigorous debate on the floor about where we need to go from there. There are other pieces—I would consider them to be central—but I am OK with legislation coming to the floor where we have a balance between resolution, derivatives, and consumer protection. Then let's go from there and have the kind of debate I think our country would love to see us have in public, focused not on rhetoric—because we have plenty of substance on this issue—but on substance, and let's do something that will stand the test of time. I think we are going to do that. As a matter of fact—and I know my time is up—I think this bill has the opportunity in the next few days, and once we begin debate on the floor, which I hope will happen in a bipartisan way—I think this bill is potentially the beginning of us being able to function in an appropriate way in this body. That is what I hope happens.

That is why for weeks and months I have been saying that I think at the end of the day we are going to end up with a bipartisan bill. I hope it has some important elements in it, such as the ones I mentioned, that will allow me to support it. Whether that happens—and I hope it happens—or not, I hope we have a vigorous debate and end up with a good product.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER SCHROEDER TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for Chris Schroeder's nomination to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy in the Department of Justice.

Before I go any further, I want to state for the record that Chris Schroeder

is a long-time colleague and great friend. Not only did we work together for Senator BIDEN, but for the past 20 years we have co-taught a course on the Congress at Duke Law School—a course that for many of those years was cosponsored by the law school and the Stanford School of Public Policy.

Chris is currently the Charles S. Murphy Professor of Law and Professor of Public Policy Studies at Duke, as well as director of Duke's Program in Public Law.

Chris was born in Springfield, OH, received his B.A. from Princeton University, a master of Divinity from Yale, and his J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, where he was editor in chief of the California Law Review.

He is married to Katherine T. Bartlett, former dean and current A. Kenneth Pye Professor at Duke Law School. Chris and Kate have three wonderful children.

During his legal career, Chris has excelled in private practice, government service, and academics.

Following his graduation from law school, Chris practiced law in San Francisco, gaining valuable experience in a wide variety of both State and Federal practice.

In 1979, he became a law professor at Duke, where he has been a respected and prolific scholar, an invaluable administrator, and a committed and effective teacher.

He has authored and edited several books, including a leading casebook on environmental law, "Environmental Regulation: Law, Science and Policy," now in its sixth edition.

He also has published countless articles in law reviews and journals, on an impressive range of topics, including environmental law, federalism, Federal courts, executive and legislative power, and national security.

Chris's teaching is just as broad and deep as his scholarship. Over the course of his career, he has taught environmental law, constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, administrative law, civil liberties and national security, Federal policymaking, the Congress, government, business and public policy, an environmental litigation clinic, toxic substances regulation, land use planning, water law, philosophy of environmental protection, property, and civil procedure.

Chris is a true renaissance man. I can personally attest to the quality of Chris's teaching, having co-taught with him for 20 years. Here in the Senate, we have many former students doing excellent staff work on both sides of the aisle.

Chris has also contributed his legal and policy expertise to practical problems affecting the health and safety of the community. He served on National Academy of Science and Institute of Medicine committees to evaluate the use of human intentional dosage studies by the EPA and the adequacy of the U.S. drug safety system.

Duke has also recognized Chris's considerable administrative skills. In addition to serving as co-chair of the Center for the Study of the Congress, with me, and the director of Program in Public Law, Chris has chaired the school's appointments committee, served on the dean's selection committee, and served as a member of the university's judicial board.

In the 1990s, while at Duke, he took several leaves of absence for positions in public service. As a result, he has considerable experience in government, which will stand him in good stead at the Office of Legal Policy.

He has served in several capacities in the Senate, including as special nominations counsel and then he was the No. 1 staffer as chief counsel for the Judiciary Committee.

He also held numerous positions in the Department of Justice, including counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Legal Counsel, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, and acting Assistant Attorney General.

In short, Chris Schroeder has the experience, the intellect, and the judgment necessary to be a superb leader of the Office of Legal Policy.

Just as important, he has the character and integrity to help the Attorney General continue to restore the public faith in the Department of Justice.

The Office of Legal Policy, OLP, has a wide range of important responsibilities within the Department of Justice. Let me read from the description on the DOJ Web site:

The major functions of the Office of Legal Policy are to:

- Develop strategies and programs to implement legislative, programmatic and policy initiatives;

- serve as a liaison to the Executive Office of the President and other agencies on policy matters;

- conduct policy reviews of legislation and other proposals and support and coordinate Departmental efforts to advance the Administration's legislative and policy agenda;

- assure policy consistency and coordination of Departmental initiatives, briefing materials and policy statements;

- provide support and policy expertise in conjunction with other components to implement effectively major departmental and administration initiatives in the criminal and civil justice areas; assist the President and the Attorney General in filling all Article III and certain Article I judicial vacancies; coordinate regulatory development and the review of all proposed and final rules developed by all Department components; To serve as liaison to the Office of Management and Budget and other agencies on regulatory matters; Track and coordinate departmental implementation of statutory responsibilities and reporting requirements.

In sum, OLP is responsible for developing the high-priority policy initiatives of the Department of Justice. The Assistant Attorney General for OLP serves as the primary policy adviser to the Attorney General. OLP is the place within the Department where critical long-term planning gets done. OLP also handles special projects that implicate the interests of multiple Department components and coordinates the regulatory development and review of all