



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Senator Pete Domenici Remarks on the Introduction of Jacob J. Lew to the Senate Finance Committee Confirmation Hearing  
*As Prepared for Delivery, February 13, 2013*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Hatch and members of the Committee. It is a pleasure for me to be back here in the Senate and to introduce my friend and colleague, Jack Lew.

I am honored to endorse Jack's nomination to serve as the next Secretary of the Treasury at this critical moment in our nation's fiscal history.

Currently I am a Senior Adviser at the Bipartisan Policy Center established a few years ago by our former Leaders -- Senators Dole, Baker, Mitchell and Daschle. It is bipartisan not nonpartisan. I am a proud Republican. I am also a former Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, which many of you also serve on, and I completed my career here as Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee.

As a complete aside, Mr. Chairman if you would allow me, I cannot let this opportunity pass without pointing out that I know I am growing as old as the Pope, when you realize that Senator Michael Bennet is the son of the first staff director of the Senate Budget Committee -- Doug Bennet, when Senator Muskie was the Chairman and I was sitting on that Committee where he is today on your committee -- at the end of the dais.

This Committee, Senators know full well, has jurisdiction over 50 percent of the federal budget and if we are to put the country on a sustainable fiscal path for the future, this Committee will play a critical role in achieving that goal working with the President and particularly his Secretary of the Treasury.

So as you confront the fiscal challenges ahead, I cannot think of anyone more qualified or more ready for this job than Jack Lew. He not only understands the challenges our country faces, he has the experience and judgment to confront them.

As many here know, Jack has been a dedicated public servant for many years. But what many here may not know is where that

dedication originates from. Jack's father was born in Poland, and he came to America at the end of World War I. His mother's family made the journey to the U.S. just a few years earlier. You could say Jack's parents were among the fortunate ones. They left Europe before it was too late. And with that good luck came a deep love for the United States, a country that was, for them, synonymous with freedom, hope and opportunity.

The bulk of Jack's career has been spent in public service beginning here on Capitol Hill in 1973. I first encountered Jack briefly when he was Speaker O'Neill's liaison to the Greenspan Commission which negotiated a bipartisan solution to reform Social Security in 1983.

Jack has earned the trust of two Presidents. He has overseen the budget of the entire Executive Branch in two administrations.

I know this firsthand. During long and difficult budget negotiations in the 1990s, we worked together to reach honorable compromises and balance the budget. I can say without equivocation that Jack was always willing to listen, to work with members of both parties, to seek and find common ground. As my friend and colleague at the Bipartisan Policy Center, Alice Rivlin, has said, Jack is a "very fair person."

Former Secretary of the Treasury Bob Rubin, wrote me to say that Jack has the ability to understand complex matters quickly and well, very good judgment, and the ability to work effectively with Administration colleagues and members of Congress. Qualities all that our next Treasury Secretary is going to have if we're going to pull our country out of the fiscal mess we are in.

On a personal note, I have found Jack to be a man of integrity. He works hard, can be a tough negotiator for the principles he believes in but plays it straight. We have had differences of opinion over policies but we were able to work thru those differences I believe for the good of the country. The press keeps asking me for funny anecdotes about Jack, knowing I had worked with him over many years. Truth is Jack isn't a funny anecdote guy. He is just an able dedicated straight-shooter.

From my current position at the Bipartisan Policy Center I look forward to working with Jack in the months ahead and share my views on reining in health care costs and reforming our tax code.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I know Jack is a decent man and a serious policy maker who has the right mix of

qualifications, knowledge, and vision to serve as the next Secretary of the Treasury, and it is my hope that you will approve this nomination swiftly.

Thank you.