

The yeas and nays.

Here’s how Maine’s congressional representatives voted this week

BY TARGETED
NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Here’s a look at how Maine’s members of Congress voted over the previous week.

This wasn’t a busy week on Capitol Hill. There were two key votes and two roll call votes in the Senate this week. The most important Senate vote was to confirm Christopher Hart as chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Along with roll call votes, the Senate also passed a resolution, sponsored by Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisconsin, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the coura-

geous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and call for a swift and transparent investigation of his recent murder in Moscow.

The House of Representatives was not in session, so there were no key votes.

Senate votes

Senate vote 1

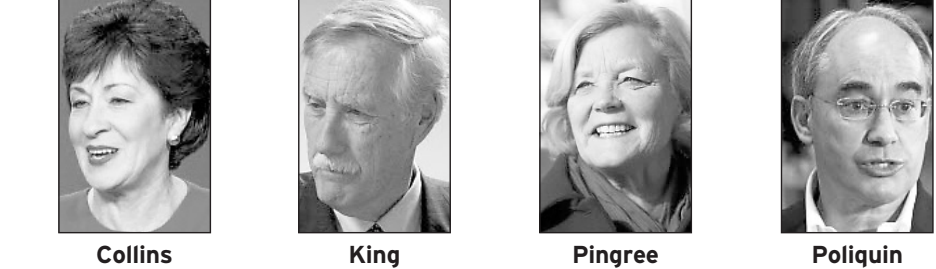
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Daniel Henry Marti to serve as Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

A supporter, Sen. Pat-

rick J. Leahy, D-Vermont, said Marti, currently managing partner at a Washington, D.C., law firm, has specialized in intellectual property law in his career as a lawyer, gaining experience in trademark law and domestic and international intellectual property law.

Leahy said Marti’s confirmation would fill a vacancy that has lasted for more than 18 months, allowing the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator office to fulfill its mission of working with law enforcement and industry to address intellectual property theft, particularly on the Internet.

The vote was unanimous



Collins

King

Pingree

Poliquin

with 92 yeas. Both Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Angus King, I-Maine, were among those yeas.

Senate vote 2

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD CHAIRMAN: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Christopher

A. Hart to serve as chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a two-year term.

A supporter, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, said Hart, currently acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, had a distinguished career in aviation safety, and has

shown in his time as acting chairman his ability to help “make our transportation network safer, more secure, and more reliable.”

The vote was unanimous with 97 yeas. Both Collins and King were among those yeas.

Neither Collins nor King issued any statements regarding these votes this week.

New ‘Caribou’ spud ready for market

UMaine and Potato Board in joint venture

BY JULIA BAYLY
BDN STAFF

PRESQUE ISLE — Move over Idaho’s Russet Burbank, there’s a new spud in town.

On Friday the Maine Potato Board and the University of Maine jointly announced the newest potato variety, the Caribou Russet.

Destined for kitchens and backyard cookouts around the country, the cross between a Silverton Russet and a Reeves Kingpin is a “dual purpose russet skinned variety [that] has good baked and mashed quality for fresh market consumption and is also expected to be useful for processing markets,” according to information provided by the Maine Potato Board.

“Potatoes are bred for a multitude of characteristics, everything from disease resistance to improved fry color, said Tim Hobbs, director of development and grower relations for the Maine Potato Board. “To get the right combination of characteristics in one variety takes a large investment in time and resources [and] eventually this investment pays off.”

The board worked with Dr. Greg Porter at the University of Maine’s breeding program to develop the new tuber.

In addition to its baking

and mashing properties, the new Caribou Russet is disease and nematode resistant.

“The university has the research and development capability and commitment for developing new potato varieties, from the lab to the field, which takes years,” said Don Flannery, Maine Potato Board executive director. “They understand what the growers and the industry are looking for and need [and] we in turn, have the capacity to promote the varieties and maintain the quality of seed required for the integrity of the variety and the market.”

Flannery said the potato board is already fielding questions from growers around the state and the country about the new variety.

The Caribou Russet has a light russeted skin and white flesh, according to the potato board, and is a large plant with a mid-season maturity and good yields.

It joins two other varieties developed by the university and unveiled last fall. The Easton and the Sebec varieties were the first new potatoes released by the university in more than a decade, according to an earlier Bangor Daily News article.

Anyone interested in obtaining a sublicense to grow Caribou Russet should contact the Maine Potato Board at 207-769-5061.

Imports

Continued from Page D4

grow, but that does depend to some degree on the weather and timing.

“It depends on building inventory around the mud seasons and calculating how much you need to get through that season, because we can’t harvest on muddy ground,” Strauch said.

The last year Maine was a net exporter of all varieties of wood products — including sawlogs, pulpwood, biomass chips and firewood and pellets — was 2006, when International Paper negotiated the sale of its mills in Jay and Bucksport to new investor, Verso Paper.

In total in 2013, Maine exported about 849,500 cords of wood while importing a little more than 1 million cords.

Within that total, pulpwood is the largest category harvested in the state and the largest category imported, by volume, as it’s used in papermaking. As a result, it typically makes or breaks whether the state is a net importer or exporter of wood.

In 2006, pulpwood imports exceeded exports by less than half the amount of the previous year. That is, pulpwood imports were about 250,000 cords higher than exports in 2006, compared with imports beating exports by about 600,000 cords in 2005.

In 2013, imports were about 450,000 cords higher than pulpwood exports, ac-

cording to the Maine Forest Service’s latest Wood Processor Report, and the service noted that some curtailments at pulp mills, such as in Old Town, led to incomplete data and under-reporting.

Sawlogs are typically sent out of the state, with about 145,000 more board feet sent out of state than brought into Maine for processing. In 2013, Maine imported about 110,057 board feet of sawlogs, exported about 255,576 board feet and processed 623,943 board feet that from trees harvested in-state.

While the state was a net importer of wood in the latest period, Strauch said that could change with a few key developments that are expected in 2015. Among them is Wisconsin-based Expera taking over the pulp mill at Old Town Fuel & Fiber and Woodland Pulp in Baileyville completing construction on two tissue paper machines.

And changes in the manufacturing sector also can affect which types of wood are in the greatest demand.

For the most part, those imports are coming from the other New England states, New York and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Exports travel to a wider variety of states, including other New England states, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and China and Thailand.



U.S. Cellular

Better value than Verizon and AT&T.

There’s never been a better time to switch. We’ll pay off your old contract, up to \$350 per line.

Lines	U.S. Cellular®	Verizon	AT&T
2	\$100*/8GB	\$115*/8GB	\$105*/7GB
4	\$120*/8GB	\$145*/8GB	\$135*/7GB

*Per month. Valid as of 2/21/15.



\$0 DOWN

Retail Installment Contract, Shared Connect Plan and \$25 act. fee required. 0% APR; 20 mo. payments of \$33.

Samsung GALAXY S5

See more plans at uscellular.com/better

Things we want you to know: New Retail Installment Contracts, Shared Connect Plan and \$25 device act. fees required. Credit approval required. Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies (currently \$182/line/month); this is not a tax or govt. required charge. Add. fees, taxes and terms apply and vary by svc. and eqmt. Offers valid in-store at participating locations only, may be fulfilled through direct fulfillment and cannot be combined. See store.uscellular.com for details. **Contract Payoff Promo:** Offer valid on up to 6 consumer lines or 25 business lines. Must port in current number to U.S. Cellular and purchase new Smartphone or tablet through a Retail Installment Contract on a Shared Connect Plan with Device Protection+. Enrollment in Device Protection+ required in all markets except North Carolina. The monthly charge for Device Protection+ is \$8.99 for Smartphones. A deductible per approved claim applies. Federal Warranty Service Corporation is the Provider of the Device Protection+ ESC benefits, except in CA and OK. Submit final bill identifying early termination fee (ETF) charged by carrier within 60 days of activation date to www.uscellular.com/contractpayoff or via mail to U.S. Cellular Contract Payoff Program 5591-61; PO Box 752257; El Paso, TX 88575-2257. Customer will be reimbursed for the ETF reflected on final bill up to \$350/line. Reimbursement in form of a U.S. Cellular Prepaid Card is issued by MetaBank® Member FDIC, additional offers are not sponsored or endorsed by MetaBank. This card does not have cash access and can be used at any merchant location that accepts MasterCard® Debit Cards within the U.S. only. Card valid through expiration date shown on front of card. Allow 12–14 weeks for processing. To be eligible, customer must register for My Account. **Retail Installment Contract:** Retail Installment Contract (Contract) and monthly payments according to the Payment Schedule in the Contract required. If you are in default or terminate your Contract, we may require you to immediately pay the entire unpaid Amount Financed as well as our collection costs, attorneys’ fees and court costs related to enforcing your obligations under the Contract. **Kansas Customers:** In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. Additional terms apply. See store.uscellular.com for details. ©2015 U.S. Cellular