



Senator
Mike Crapo

115TH Congress in Review 2017–2018





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January 2019

Dear Fellow Idahoan,

In the November 2016 election, voters sent a clear message to Congress by electing candidates that would create an opportunity society for Americans. This vision built on conservative principles of a limited government, reined in irresponsible federal spending, a strong national defense and a free market emphasis.

During the 115th Congress, the Senate, House of Representatives and President Donald Trump have implemented conservative policies that will enable all Americans to build and achieve their American dream, while strengthening our economy and allowing businesses to grow and thrive.

Senate Republicans have made positive headway on our promises to the American people to get Washington functioning again. In 2017 alone, the President signed 70 pieces of legislation passed by Congress aimed specifically at overturning costly rules and regulations from the previous Administration. Further, the Senate enacted meaningful tax reform, made it easier for small banks to provide services to working families, repealed the individual health care mandate, gave terminally ill patients the “right to try” experimental medications, addressed the opioid crisis, supported our troops and veterans, and passed many other bipartisan pieces of legislation to advance the American economy.

In two years, the Senate confirmed a record number of judges, including two U.S. Supreme Court Justices. The Senate made significant progress in advancing a court system that preserves our constitutional rights and provides fair justice by confirming judges who will enforce the law as it is written, not make policy from the bench.

I am grateful for the support and friendship you have extended to me, and I look forward to continuing my work with Idahoans, President Trump and my colleagues in Congress to make further advancements for the American people.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo

Legislation

During the 115th Congress, Senator Crapo sponsored 27 pieces of standalone legislation, four Senate Resolutions and 11 Amendments. Additionally, he cosponsored 138 pieces of standalone legislation, 57 Senate Resolutions, and 34 Amendments. Two of Senator Crapo's standalone bills became law, one was passed by the Senate and several others became law as parts of larger legislative packages.

AGRICULTURE

Idaho farmers and ranchers produce more than 140 different commodities. As a lifelong Idahoan, Senator Crapo understands the challenges facing families who make their living from the land and feed the world's population. Senator Crapo has introduced and advocated for responsible legislation that protects this crucial industry and allows it to grow.



The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 was signed into law on December 20, 2018. The law, more simply known as the Farm Bill, included provisions introduced and championed by Senator Crapo as standalone legislation.

- The **Timber Innovation Act** will help accelerate research and development—and ultimately construction—of wood buildings in the United States.
- The Farm Bill included a 10-year reauthorization of the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)**, which enables the expansion of active collaborative land-use groups in Idaho, and accounts for more than 5,400 jobs across 14 states. The CFLRP encourages large-scale (50,000+ acres) collaborative, science-based forest restoration in a way that encourages environmental and economic sustainability.
- The **Foreign Market Development Program** will allow thousands of small and medium-sized family farms, including many in Idaho, to reach more foreign markets, opening new opportunities and adding billions of dollars to our nation's agriculture industry.
- The **Good Neighbor Authority** permits Idaho's counties and Native tribes to enter into contracts for the purpose of managing and completing needed maintenance in national forests, and has increased the pace and scale of forest restoration across Idaho.

ENERGY

S. 97, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act (NEICA), became law on September 28, 2018.

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) leads the country in research and advances in nuclear energy sustainability. Its women and men work diligently every day to develop capabilities to make nuclear energy more safe and reliable as a long-term energy source. Access to private sector partnerships will enable greater testing and demonstration abilities of cornerstone-setting work at INL.

The result of years of bipartisan collaboration with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island), Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and others, NEICA will remove barriers to the development of technologies that allow for advanced and more efficient use of nuclear energy. It authorizes the creation of a National Reactor Innovation Center that brings together the technical expertise at the National Labs and the Department of



Energy to enable the construction and testing of experimental reactors. The new law provides our national labs, like INL, the ability to partner with private industry to prove the principles behind their research and maintain U.S. eminence in the future of nuclear energy. Reliable, efficient and emission-free—nuclear energy is and will continue to be a critical component of our nation’s baseload power needs.

At the end of 2018, Congress passed the **Nuclear Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA), S. 512**. NEIMA will promote innovation in the nuclear energy sector by encouraging public and private investment in nuclear research and spur the development of a regulatory framework within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission necessary for licensing advanced nuclear reactors, enabling more of the research performed at INL to reach the commercial market.

Senator Crapo will continue to champion policies that support comprehensive, multifaceted approaches to lift barriers to American innovation and leadership in nuclear energy.

“The passage of these pieces of legislation underscores the strong bipartisan agreement in Congress that nuclear energy is a reliable, safe, clean and efficient part of our national energy portfolio and a commitment to maintaining U.S. leadership in nuclear innovation.”

– Senator Mike Crapo –

“In a time when Congress—and the nation as a whole—has difficulty finding common ground, nuclear energy proved its ability to bring policymakers together.”

–Post Register, October 7, 2018

ECONOMIC REFORM

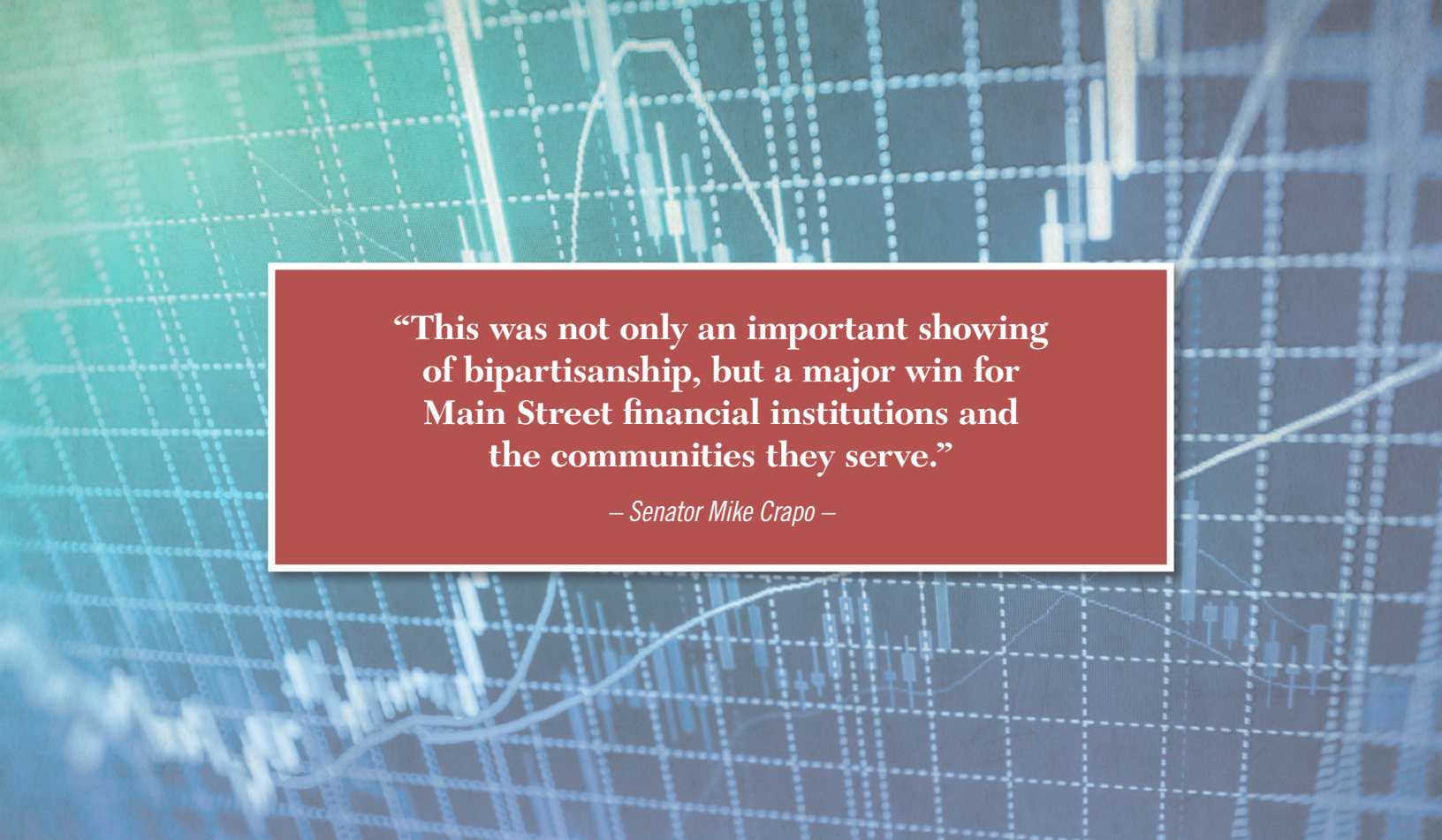
The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act (S. 2155) became law on May 24, 2018.

Financial institutions of all sizes and forms provide critical services in Idaho communities. They help businesses manage operations, help entrepreneurs get funding to start their businesses, help families buy a home, help parents save for their kids' educations and help individuals deal with financial emergencies. Unfortunately, the post-crisis regulatory regime for financial institutions has had a disproportionate impact on smaller community banks, which, until recently, had been regulated similarly to their much larger counterparts. Ever-increasing federal regulations raised compliance costs, reduced local credit availability and played a significant role in the decline of new banking charters and accelerated consolidation. This also meant increased systemic risk and reduced consumer choice. For years, members of both political parties had been working to find consensus on how Congress could provide relief for smaller financial institutions from regulations meant for the biggest, most complex institutions, while also ensuring a safe financial system.



“The bill, which rolls back certain regulations for both community and regional banks, is the most significant change yet to the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law.”

-Wall Street Journal, May 24, 2018

The background of the top half of the page features a grid of dashed lines in shades of blue and green, overlaid with various financial line and bar charts. The overall color palette is cool, with blues and greens.

“This was not only an important showing of bipartisanship, but a major win for Main Street financial institutions and the communities they serve.”

– Senator Mike Crapo –

As Chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator Crapo negotiated a commonsense, bipartisan banking reform bill, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act (S. 2155), that right-sizes the regulatory system for smaller financial institutions. This bill, now law, sets community banks and credit unions up for success, allowing them to invest further in the communities they serve. Rather than spending time on compliance, these institutions can redirect resources toward what they do best—approving mortgages, lending to small businesses and providing credit to families in their communities. While the law primarily focuses on pro-growth economic policies, it is also carefully balanced to ensure such policies protect consumers and taxpayers against the risks that have caused past economic collapses. The law significantly increases consumer protections for veterans, senior citizens, victims of fraud and people who fall on tough financial times.

“President Donald Trump on Thursday signed into law a bill that rolls back banking regulations passed in response to the 2008 financial crisis, declaring it a “big deal for our country.”

–Idaho Statesman, May 24, 2018

NATURAL RESOURCES

S. 1842, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, became law in March 2018 as part of Congress' 2018 omnibus appropriations bill.

The National Interagency Fire Center reported that fire suppression costs increased from nearly \$240 million in 1985 to more than \$2.9 billion in 2017. This resulted in agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) diverting funds from important projects that improve the health of our forests and

“Somewhere Smokey Bear is smiling. Congressional leaders have reached a long-sought deal to fix the way the U.S. Forest Service pays for efforts to fight wildfires.”

-Washington Post, March 23, 2018

enable recreational activities on our public lands to covering pressing wildfire suppression costs. The practice, known as fire borrowing, resulted in less resources for the activities necessary for preventing large, devastating fires, and contributed to an increased harmful fire cycle while forest health projects were tabled.

Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Senator Crapo began introducing legislation in 2013 to end the harmful practice of fire borrowing. They worked with a bipartisan group of senators and representatives steadily in the years following to stop the erosion of the Forest Service and BLM's budgets and to ramp up fire-prevention projects.

The law not only improves federal budgeting for wildfires by permitting disaster relief funds to be accessed when fire suppression expenditures exceed their 10-year average, but also includes





forest management reforms that will result in significant positive impacts on forest health.

The Fire Fix makes progress in the way the country addresses wildfires by treating them like other natural disasters and improving the health of our forests. Senator Crapo remains committed to policies that ensure forest managers and firefighters have the resources they need to improve the health of our forests and reduce the threats to our communities.



VETERANS

Having heard directly from Idaho's veterans through years of statewide veterans surveys, hundreds of town halls, in constituent mail and in other various meetings throughout the State, Senator Crapo remains committed to pressing for sensible reforms that improve the lives of veterans and their families.

The **John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act** became law on June 6, 2018, and included provisions first introduced by Senator Crapo as standalone legislation (S. 1279). The VA MISSION Act incorporates portions of Senator Crapo's language, including:

- Consolidating permanently the previous seven Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community care programs and creates a new Veteran Community Care Program to streamline the delivery of local, private health care to veterans when it is in the best medical interest of the veteran;
- Creating an education program on health care options for veterans to help better inform veterans of their health care options through the VA; and
- Requiring the VA to develop and implement a staff training program to teach employees how to administer the non-VA health care programs.



The **Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act** became law on **August 16, 2017**. The reform legislation enacted a variety of improvements to eligibility for and utilization of veterans' educational assistance benefits. The law includes the **Shauna Hill Post 9/11 Education Benefits Transferability Act**, introduced by Senators Crapo and Risch in the Senate and by Representatives Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho-1) and Mike Simpson (R-Idaho-2) in the House of Representatives. That legislation, named for an Idahoan killed in an automobile accident, enables veterans to reassign educational benefits in the event the original recipient dies.

Senator Crapo co-sponsored the **Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act**, which became law on August 23, 2017. It overhauled the appeals process and replaced it with a new multi-track system to ensure veterans and their families receive timelier decisions on essential benefits provided by the VA.

In a non-legislative effort to help Idaho's veterans, members of Senator Crapo's staff have come together with stakeholders across Idaho to help veterans transition from

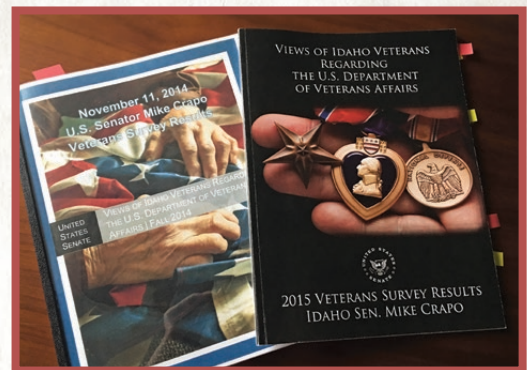
“[Senator Crapo’s] bill would rightfully base eligibility for the proposed Care in the Community Program on whether receiving care through community providers is in the clinical best interest of the veteran.”

-Veterans of Foreign Wars, July 11, 2017

their military service to civilian opportunities in Idaho. Together, they have formed the Veterans Education and Workforce Development Coalition. The coalition’s goal is to assist in attracting and retaining skilled veterans in Idaho by enhancing and promoting employment and educational opportunities available in the state.

The coalition has had some meaningful success over the last year through various partnerships throughout the state, including:

- a 65 percent increase in apprenticeship and on-the-job training applications submitted by Idaho employers to the Idaho Division of Veterans Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



With the legislative work completed and ongoing in the Senate and the on-the-ground work by our stakeholder coalition, Senator Crapo hopes to help make Idaho an even greater place for veterans to live by placing a strong valuation on the traits and skills acquired by those who have served in the US Armed Forces in civilian job opportunities and educational pursuits.

Committees

Committees are an essential part of the legislative process. Senate committees provide oversight of federal governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information and recommend courses of action to the Senate.

Senator Crapo served on **six** committees during the 115th Congress. He served as Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; and as a member of the Budget Committee, Finance Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, and an inaugural term on the Senate Judiciary Committee. The following are some highlights of his work on the committees.

At the start of the 115th Congress, Senator Crapo chaired the Committee on Committees, which negotiates the process of assigning Republican senators to committees. He will again serve in that role at the start of the 116th Congress, working with colleagues to form committees that reflect the priorities of constituents and build upon the successes of the 115th Congress.



FINANCE:

Many consider the Finance Committee one of the most powerful committees in Congress because of its wide-reaching range of jurisdiction. Under the committee's purview are many issues of importance to Idahoans, including:

- The federal tax code and tax policy in general;
- Bonded debt of the United States;
- Establishment and implementation of reciprocal foreign trade agreements;
- Tariff and import quotas;
- Deposit of public moneys;
- General revenue sharing;
- Health programs under the Social Security Act, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund; and
- National social security.

During the 115th Congress, as a senior member of the committee, Senator Crapo helped enact the most comprehensive tax reform in over three decades. The **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law on December 22, 2017**. Producing growth not seen in generations, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act gave Americans access to higher wages, greater job opportunities and a more vibrant economy. The productivity and job growth; boosts to retirement assets and other investments; wage increases; and savings of time and money from simplified tax filing provided through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are already making a difference. The U.S. economy saw 4.2 percent growth in the second quarter of 2018, the fastest rate of growth in nearly four years.



BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

In 2017, Senator Crapo became Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Banking Committee).

As Chairman during the 115th Congress, Crapo drove an agenda to reform and modernize the financial sector to handle the challenges of a rapidly changing banking, finance and housing market. He ushered dozens of bills under the committee's jurisdiction through the Senate and into law. One of the pinnacle achievements in the 115th Congress was the passage of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act, but the Committee also passed important sanctions legislation, legislation to improve capital formation, and legislation to protect our national security interests. It also conducted important oversight hearings and moved dozens of President Trump's nominees to important positions within federal agencies.

BANKING COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

- ✓ 70 Committee Hearings
- ✓ 17 Committee Markups
- ✓ 30 Confirmed Nominations

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS

The Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 and Export Control Reform Act of 2018 were signed into law on August 13, 2018.

The Banking Committee ushered through legislation to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and the United States Export Control regime. The Committee, known as CFIUS, reviews certain types of foreign transactions to determine if there is a threat to impair U.S. national security.



The CFIUS process had not been updated in more than a decade, during which time threats to national security had certainly evolved. The Committee passed the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA) to more effectively guard against the risk to the national security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Senate passes Crapo's bill easing banking rules



In this March 6, 2018 photo, Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, joined by, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., left, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., right, talks to reporters as the Senate moves closer to passing legislation to roll back some of the safeguards Congress put in place to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis, at the Capitol in Washington. (J. Scott Applewhite / Associated Press)

HOLDING FOREIGN COUNTRIES ACCOUNTABLE

The Countering Russian Aggression and Cyber Attacks Act of 2017 was signed into law on June 15, 2017. As Chairman of the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over sanctions policy, Crapo secured passage of the **Countering Russian Aggression and Cyber Attacks Act of 2017**, which President Trump signed into law in August 2017. The bipartisan legislation maintains and substantially expands sanctions against the government of Russia in response to the violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and Crimea, its brazen cyber-attacks and interference in elections, and its continuing aggression in Syria. This law signaled to the world the United States' unflagging commitment to the sanctity of territorial integrity, human rights and good governance. It also demonstrated our resolve in responding to cyber-attacks against American citizens and entities and against our allies.

OVERSIGHT

The Banking Committee serves an important oversight function of the financial sector and the federal banking regulators. In the 115th Congress, the Committee carried out its oversight functions on issues concerning Second Amendment rights, data privacy and security and bad actors in the financial markets, among others.

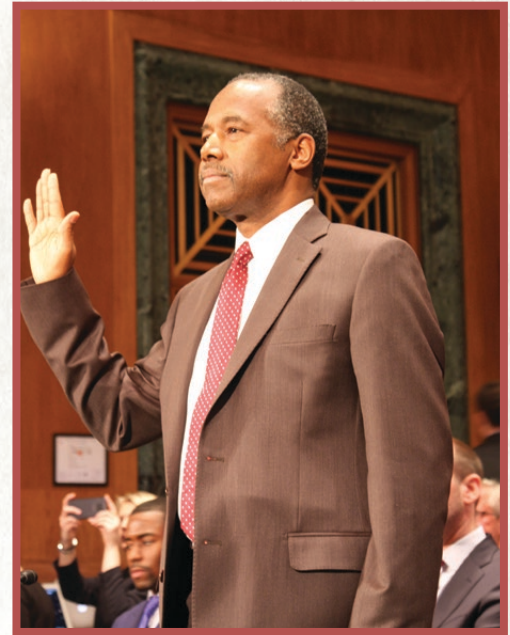
- **Second Amendment Rights:** Senator Crapo stood up to big banks who were threatening to cut off financial services to law-abiding firearm manufacturers, retailers and firearms purchasers if they did not comply with the banks' firearms preferences. Citing the failures of Operation Choke Point, Crapo remained vocal in his commitment to fighting against banks and other companies seeking to replace legislators and policymakers by limiting access to credit.
- **Data Security:** Following the massive data breach at Equifax, a major credit reporting agency, Senator Crapo held an oversight hearing to examine the data breach, figure out what went wrong, and determine how companies can better safeguard consumers' information in the future. The Banking Committee included a provision in the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act to provide free credit freezes and unfreezes for victims of fraud or data breaches.
- **Bad Actors:** The Committee also held an oversight hearing with Wells Fargo, who one year earlier had testified before the Banking Committee regarding the bank's fake-account scandal and the company's handling of the fallout. In the year since, new developments prompted the Committee to conduct additional oversight, and Senator Crapo reiterated how critically important it is for companies to institute policies and procedures that foster customer protection, promptly identify and address problems, and treat customers fairly.

Bloomberg

Senate Backs Bill Relaxing Post-Crisis Rules for Smaller Banks



- **Transit Rail Safety:** Senator Crapo led the Senate's efforts to pass the Transit Rail Inspection Practices Act which strengthens transit rail inspection capabilities of state safety oversight agencies. The Act requires right-sized, risk-based inspections to ensure the safety of our nation's public transportation riders.



CONFIRMING PRO-JOBS, PRO-GROWTH NOMINEES TO THE BANKING SECTOR

One of the Banking Committee's primary responsibilities is to provide advice and consent on presidential nominations. This Congress, the Banking Committee moved 41 presidentially-appointed nominees out of committee, including the Chairman of the Federal Reserve and several Fed Board Governors, the Chairman and members of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Chairman of the FDIC, Comptroller of the OCC, HUD Secretary, and many others.

- Thirty nominees were approved by the full Senate, and each of these nominees plays a critical part in right-sizing regulation for our financial markets and the economy.

JUDICIARY

The U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary has oversight and related legislative responsibilities over the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and associated agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Additionally, the Judiciary Committee is charged with the responsibility of considering all Article III judicial nominations, which include district court nominations, appellate court nominations, and nominations to the highest judicial body granted by our Constitution—the Supreme Court of the United States.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED

- The Senate Judiciary Committee went straight to work on day one of the 115th Congress to consider judicial nominations. The committee advanced an historic number of judicial nominees, including two Idahoans, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Idaho Judge David Nye of Pocatello, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ryan Nelson of Idaho Falls.
- The Senate also confirmed two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, Justice Neil Gorsuch, and Justice Brett Kavanaugh.
- Senator Crapo recognizes judicial decisions carry with them the power to influence the American people for years to come. It is crucial that the people making these judgments follow the law, not make laws from the bench.



PRESSING FORWARD ON A THIRD IDAHO DISTRICT JUDGE

- Senator Crapo joined fellow Idaho Senator Jim Risch in introducing legislation to add a third judge to the District of Idaho. He has introduced similar bills and sought to get a third federal district judge authorized since the late 1990s. Senator Crapo remains dedicated to obtaining an additional federal judgeship in Idaho to more quickly process cases in Idaho and ensure effective access to justice for Idahoans.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Senator Crapo has long supported the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), originally signed into law in 1994. Senator Crapo served as the lead Republican sponsor in the Senate in the 2013 reauthorization. In March 2018, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the need to reauthorize VAWA again. During the hearing, Senator Crapo discussed the successes of consolidated services in Idaho enabling victims to access a range of needed services under one roof with Katherine Sullivan, head of the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women. Reauthorizations of VAWA have been achieved because of the great work of many advocates and crime victims in Idaho and across the country. Senator Crapo continues to remain an advocate for violence prevention, and will continue to support legislation to end domestic abuses of any kind.

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

- On June 27, 2018, Senator Crapo chaired a Judiciary Committee hearing to consider expanding government compensation for victims of cancer related to fallout from nuclear weapons testing during the Cold War, known as “downwinders.” The hearing focused primarily on Senator Crapo’s legislation, the **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments of 2017**. The measure would increase compensation and widen eligibility requirements to include victims in Idaho who have been denied government help for more than 50 years. Idaho resident, Tona Henderson, who leads Idaho Downwinders in Emmett, testified before the committee, noting that Gem County, Idaho, received the third-highest amount of fallout in the nation according to a National Cancer Institute study of radiation exposure due to weapons testing. Senator Crapo remains committed to seeing this legislation become law.



INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is charged with oversight in matters related to the Native American, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native peoples. Idaho is home to five Native American Tribes: the Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-bannock, and Shoshone-Paiute, and creates a vibrant culture in the Gem State. Senator Crapo's membership on the committee affords him the opportunity to collaborate with Idaho Tribal leaders and members on a variety of federal issues and Bureau of Indian Affairs programs.



BUDGET

The Budget Committee's principal responsibility is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget to serve as the framework for congressional spending, revenue and debt-limit legislation. Working in tandem with the House of Representatives, the Senate establishes a joint agreement, a "budget resolution," that sets the spending levels for its specified timeframe. The Budget Committee tracks the appropriations and legislative processes throughout the year to ensure spending levels conform to the levels set forth in the resolution. Senator Crapo has authored and supported countless common-sense fiscal policies aimed at balancing the federal budget. Addressing our national debt remains a top priority for Senator Crapo.

About Mike

As a lifelong Idahoan, Mike Crapo has learned that a willingness to listen makes for a more effective leader and lawmaker.

Leadership—Mike’s sensible approach has earned him the respect of his colleagues, and he has been selected to serve in various other leadership roles, including as Chief Deputy Whip among Senate Republicans. Mike ranks 14th in overall Senate seniority in the 116th Congress.



Idaho Legislature—Before his election to the United States Senate in 1998, Mike served three terms as the 2nd District Representative for Idaho in the U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, he served in the Idaho State Senate from 1984 to 1992, and spent his final four years in the Idaho Legislature as Senate President Pro Tempore.

Experience and Education—Prior to his service in Congress, Mike was a partner in the law firm of Holden, Kidwell, Hahn & Crapo. He is a member of the Idaho and California Bar Associations and the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. He received his Juris Doctorate *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1977, and he graduated *summa cum laude* from Brigham Young University in 1973 with a B.A. in political science. Following graduation from law school, he served a one-year clerkship with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.





Senator Mike Crapo

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