

EVENT BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Pete Ricketts
Position	Senator for Nebraska (R)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	5 September 2023, 19:00
Location	3120 Cleveland Ave NW Washington
Point of contact	s22(1)(a)
Other attendees	s22(1)(a)(ii) (confirmed) s 47F(1) , Legislative Assistant (Foreign Affairs) Ambassador Ms Thérèse Rein s22(1)(a)(ii) , Counsellor Congressional
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenatorRicketts

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory dinner with Senator Ricketts. s 33(a)(iii)

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHY



Pete Ricketts
Junior Senator for Nebraska (R)

Education: BS, University of Chicago
 MBA, University of Chicago

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2023-present	Senator for Nebraska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Relations Committee, Ranking Member Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, Member East Asia, the Pacific and International Cyber Security Subcommittee Aging Special Committee Environment Committee, Ranking Member Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
2014-2023	Governor of Nebraska
2007-2012	Member, Republican National Committee
1993-2006	Various Roles, TD Ameritrade

Ricketts is a first-term Senator, appointed in 2022 after serving as Governor of Nebraska for a full two terms. His father founded the stock trading company TD Ameritrade and Ricketts served as its President and Chief Operating Officer until 2005.

s 33(a)(iii)

Fun Fact: The Ricketts family owns the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Tim Scott
Position	Senator for South Carolina (R)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	6 September 2023, 10.45
Location	104 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20515
Point of contact	s 47F(1) , Scheduler //s 47F(1) @scott.senate.gov
Other attendees	s22(1)(a) , Counsellor, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , First Secretary, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenatorTimScott

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory meeting with 2024 Republican presidential candidate, Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee, Ranking Member of the Africa Subcommittee (Senate Foreign Relations), and Finance Committee member.

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

- Australian sailors recently graduated from the US Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina. s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s33(a)(iii)

- **South Carolina sells almost a billion US dollars in goods** (e.g. cars and tires) to Australia. We are your 8th largest export market – bigger than Japan.
 - I look forward to catching up with you again to talk about the trade agenda, particularly given your role on Senate Finance.

BACKGROUND

Scott's home state of South Carolina has deep trade ties to Australia. **Australia is South Carolina's eighth largest export market**, with the state's exports to Australia totalling \$906 million, with tires and BMWs being the largest. Additionally, Australian entities have spent **more than \$5 million spent on defence items** alone in South Carolina over the past five years.

Scott is the **Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee**, which has jurisdiction over international sanctions and, of chief relevance, the Defense Production Act (DPA). s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHY



Tim Scott

Junior Senator for South Carolina (R)

Education: BS, Charleston Southern University

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2013-present	Senator for South Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranking Member, Banking Committee • Foreign Relations Committee • Finance Committee • Small Business Committee • Aging Committee • Security in Europe Committee
2011-2013	Representative, US House of Representatives, South Carolina 1 st Congressional District
2009-2011	Representative, South Carolina House of Representatives
1995-2009	Member, Charleston County Council
Prior	Owner and Agent, Tim Scott Allstate Insurance

Tim Scott is a third-term Senator for South Carolina, and holds a unique position as the only Black Republican in the Senate. He is also **running for President**, and is the only Republican 2024 candidate from Capitol Hill. [s 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

[s 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

. Scott has **held public office in some capacity for nearly thirty years**, and was appointed in 2013 to fill a vacant Senate seat.

As Ranking Member of the Banking Committee, he is a party leader on financial policy, and values fiscal conservativeness and the free market. [s 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

Fun Fact: Scott is the first Black Senator from the Deep South since Reconstruction, the period directly following the US Civil War. Scott was also able to use the earnings from his insurance company to buy his mother a house in Charleston, SC.

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Tom Cotton
Position	Senator for Arkansas (R)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	7 July 2023, 12PM
Location	326 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Point of contact	s 47F(1) , Deputy Chief of Staff //s 47F(1) s 47F(1) @cotton.senate.gov
Other attendees	Susanne McCourt, Minister Counsellor, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenTomCotton

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory meeting with a key member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees s 33(a)(iii)

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

- The fast and effective implementation of AUKUS initiatives - submarines and advanced capabilities - would s33(a)(iii) demonstrate the strength of our shared commitment to an open, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific.

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHY



Tom Cotton

Education: BA, Harvard College
JD, Harvard University

FOAC Member: YES

Career:

2015- Present	Senator for Arkansas <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Armed Services Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ranking Member, Airland Subcommittee● Intelligence Committee● Judiciary Committee● Joint Economic Committee
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Junior Senator for Arkansas (R)	2013-2015	Representative, Arkansas 4 th District, US House of Representatives
	2009-2013	Management Consultant, McKinsey & Co
	2005-2013	US Army
	2002-2005	Private Practice Attorney

s 33(a)(iii)

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Angus King
Position	Senator for Maine (I)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	7 September, 1PM
Location	133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510
Point of contact	s 47F(1) , Director of Operations and Scheduling // s 47F(1) s 47F(1) @king.senate.gov
Other attendees	Susanne McCourt, Minister Counsellor, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenAngusKing

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory meeting with member of the Senate Armed Services, Intelligence, and Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BACKGROUND

s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHY



Angus King
Junior Senator for Maine (I)

Education: BA, Dartmouth University
JD, University of Virginia

FOAC Member: NO

Career:

2013-present	Senator for Maine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Services Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Strategic Force Subcommittee • Energy and Natural Resources Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, National Parks Subcommittee • Intelligence Committee • Veterans' Affairs Committee
2003-2012	Counsel, Bernstein Shur Sawyer and Nelson PA
1995-2003	Governor of Maine (I)

Senator Angus King was first elected in 2012 and is serving his second term after a 2018 re-election. s 33(a)(iii)

King is one of only three Independents in the US Senate, though he (and his independent colleague Sen. Bernie Sanders) caucus and mostly vote with Democrats. He has said regarding his decision to not associate with a party that he found issue with Democrats on taxation and regulation issues, and with Republicans on social issues – though his Senate record proves he votes with Democrats 92 per cent of the time.

A leading voice on the importance of improving America's cybersecurity, King is the Senate Co-Chair of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission (CSC) alongside Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI). The CSC was originally established by Congress to “develop a consensus on a strategic approach to defending the United States in cyberspace against cyber attacks of significant consequences.” The CSC succeeded in having 25 of their major policy recommendations included in the 2021 NDAA, including the establishment of the Office of the National Cyber Director and expanded subpoena and threat-hunting authorities for the CISA. The Commission’s mandate from Congress expired in December 2021, but recognising an ongoing need for its work, the body exists in a modified form as a non-profit, with Gallagher and King continuing as co-chairs.

King will face re-election in 2024 and has said he plans to run.

Fun Fact: For nearly two decades, King hosted a public television program, making him a well-known figure in Maine.

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Roger Wicker
Position	Senator for Mississippi (R), Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee
Date and Time	Thursday 21 September, 10:45 AM (arrive at Russell at 10:30 for security screening)
Location	425 Russell Senate Office Building (entrance at Constitution/First St NE)
Point of contact	s 47F(1) , Deputy Scheduler s 47F(1) (Main Office: s 47F(1))
Other attendees	Belinda McNamara, Minister Counsellor, Defence Policy s22(1)(a) , Counsellor, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , First Secretary, Australian Submarine Agency s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison - Defence
Media / social media	Social Media Post - @SenatorWicker (Twitter)

Purpose of the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHY



Roger Wicker
 Senator, State of Mississippi (R)

Education: BA, University of Mississippi
 JD, University of Mississippi

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2007-present	Senator for Mississippi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee • Ranking Member, Security and Cooperation in Europe • Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee • Environment and Public Works Committee • Rules and Administration
1995-2007	Representative, US House of Representatives, Mississippi 1 st Congressional District
1988-1995	Senator, Mississippi State Senate
1980-1987	Counsel, House Rules Committee

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Fun Facts: Wicker is a deacon and member of the choir at First Baptist Church Tupelo in his hometown of Tupelo, Mississippi.

Wicker and several other Southern Senators have introduced a resolution to designate August as “National Catfish Month” due to the significance of the fish in traditional Southern cuisine.

s 33(a)(iii)

EVENT BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Senator Sullivan (R-Alaska) and 2023 Freshman Senators: Senator Ted Budd (R-North Carolina) Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Missouri) Senator Pete Ricketts (R-Nebraska)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	3 October 2023, 19:30
Location	3120 Cleveland Ave NW Washington
Point of contact	s 33(a)(iii),
Other attendees	s 47F(1) s 47F(1) , Senior Advisor Senator Sullivan s 47F(1) , National Security Adviser Senator Budd Staffer for Senator Schmitt (TBC) Ambassador Ms Thérèse Rein Ms Suzanne McCourt, Minister-Counsellor Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , Counsellor Congressional (PoC)
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenDanSullivan; @SenTedBuddNC; @SenatorRicketts; @SenEricSchmitt.

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory dinner with freshman Senators, s 47E(d)
 , to brief on the bilateral relationship, s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

- Bilateral relationship is at a high point.
 - **Exceptional level of cooperation** with the Administration and Congress.
- Prime Minister Albanese will make a **State Visit to the US 22-26 October**.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BACKGROUND

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BIOGRAPHIES



Dan Sullivan
Senator for Alaska (R)

Education: BA, Economics, University of Harvard
Master of Law and Science, Georgetown University

FOAC Member: Yes, Co-Chair

Career:

2015-present	Senator for Alaska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Services Committee, Ranking Member Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee Commerce, Science and Transportation, Ranking Member on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change and Manufacturing Subcommittee Environment and Public Works Committee Veterans' Affairs Committee Joint Congressional-Executive Commission on China
2009-2014	State Attorney General, then Head of the Department of Natural Resources
2002-2009	Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs and Director International Economics, NSC
1997-2002	Various legal roles, Alaska

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)

Fun Fact: Sullivan is a die-hard Cleveland Brown's (football) fan and was in theatre at college.



Ted Budd
North Carolina (R)

Education: BS, Appalachian State University
ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary
MBA, Wake Forest University

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2023-present	Senator for North Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Armed Services • Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation • Committee on Health, Education, Labor, Pensions • Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
2016-2023	US Representative for North Carolina's 13th Congressional District
2010-Present	Owner, ProShots Gun Store

Budd is a first-term senator appointed in 2022 and previously served in the US House of Representatives. Before entering Congress, Budd had a background rooted in small business and farming, reflecting his upbringing in a family that prioritized both. Budd grew up on a cattle and commercial chicken farm in Davie County, North Carolina. This experience gave him an understanding of the agricultural industry.

Before his political career, one of Budd's most notable ventures was owning and operating a gun store in Rural Hall, North Carolina which informed his position on the Second Amendment.

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

Fun Fact: Budd is a trained and certified private pilot, reflecting his interest in aviation.



Pete Ricketts
Senator for Nebraska (R)

Education: BS, University of Chicago
MBA, University of Chicago

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2023-present	Senator for Nebraska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Relations Committee, Ranking Member Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, Member East Asia, the Pacific and International Cyber Security Subcommittee Aging Special Committee Environment Committee, Ranking Member Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
2014-2023	Governor of Nebraska
2007-2012	Member, Republican National Committee
1993-2006	Various Roles, TD Ameritrade

Ricketts is a first-term senator who was appointed in 2022 after serving as governor of Nebraska for a full two terms. His father founded the stock trading company TD Ameritrade and Ricketts served as its president and chief operating officer until 2005.

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)

Fun Fact: The Ricketts family owns the Chicago Cubs baseball team.



Eric Schmitt
Senator for Missouri (R)

Education: BA, Truman State University
JD, Saint Louis University School of Law

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2023-present	Senator for Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Armed Services • Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation • Joint Economic Committee
2019-2023	Missouri's 43rd Attorney General
2017-2019	46th Treasurer of the State of Missouri
2009-2017	Missouri Senate, Representing the 15th District

Schmitt is a first-term Senator, elected in 2022 after serving as a Republican politician and attorney from Missouri. During his tenure as Attorney General, Schmitt took on various issues, including combating the opioid epidemic, addressing violent crime, and defending conservative gun rights and religious freedom principles. **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**

Fun Fact: Schmitt taught a "21st Century American Civics" at his alma mater, Saint Louis University.

WICKER, COLLINS, COLLEAGUES CALL ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO EXPAND U.S. SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE

GOP National Security Leaders: Implementing AUKUS Deal Will Require ‘Generational Investments’ In U.S. Sub Production Capacity

JULY 27, 2023

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Susan Collins, R-Maine, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today led 23 of their Senate and House colleagues on a letter to President Joseph R. Biden calling on the president to take immediate action to strengthen the U.S. submarine industrial base as the U.S. works to fulfill the terms of the historic Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) partnership.

In the letter, the legislators emphasize their support for the AUKUS deal and argue that the U.S. submarine industrial base will require major new investments and a comprehensive plan of action to meet the needs of both the United States and Australia.

“We urge you to send Congress immediately an AUKUS-specific request for appropriations and authorities alongside a multi-year plan to increase U.S. submarine production to a minimum of 2.5 *Virginia*-class attack submarines per year. It is time to make generational investments in U.S. submarine production capacity, including supplier and workforce development initiatives,” **the legislators wrote.**

Joining Wicker and Collins on the letter are Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Senators Tom Cotton, R-Ark., John Cornyn, R-Texas, Mike Rounds, R-S.D., Mitt Romney, R-Utah, Ted Budd, R-N.C., Eric Schmitt, R-Mo., Rick Scott, R-Fla., Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., Ted Cruz, R-Texas, Pete Ricketts, R-Neb., Deb Fischer, R-Neb., Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., Steve Daines, R-Mont., John Kennedy, R-La., Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., John Thune, R-S.D., Katie Britt, R-Ala., Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., and Reps. Rob Wittman, R-Va., Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., and Jen Kiggans, R-Va.

Dear President Biden,

We support the vision of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) partnership and its potential to change the strategic landscape in the Indo-Pacific. The AUKUS agreement is vitally important, but we must simultaneously protect U.S. national security.

Accordingly, we urge you to send Congress immediately an AUKUS-specific request for appropriations and authorities alongside a multi-year plan to increase U.S. submarine production to a minimum of 2.5 Virginia-class attack submarines per year. It is time to make generational investments in U.S. submarine production capacity, including supplier and workforce development initiatives.

AUKUS has broad support because of its potential to improve the national security of all three countries. Implementing this deal will require a historic degree of cooperation and trust among the three countries, and here at home, between the executive and legislative branches of our government.

The administration's current plan requires the transfer of three U.S. Virginia-class attack submarines to Australia from the existing U.S. submarine fleet without a clear plan for replacing these submarines. This plan, if implemented without change, would unacceptably weaken the U.S. fleet even as China seeks to expand its military power and influence.

The U.S. Navy's military requirement is 66 nuclear attack submarines. Today, there are only 49 in the fleet. Further, as older nuclear submarines retire faster than they are replaced, the Navy projects the inventory will decline to 46 by 2030. Under the current AUKUS plan to transfer U.S. Virginia-class submarines to a partner nation before meeting the Navy's own requirements, the number of available nuclear submarines in the U.S. submarine fleet would be lowered further. This is a risk we should not take.

The U.S. submarine industrial base is currently producing an average of 1.2 Virginia-class attack submarines per year, despite needing to produce two per year. To make up for the sale of at least three attack submarines to Australia, the U.S. would have to produce somewhere between 2.3 to 2.5 submarines per year to avoid further shrinking our fleet's operational capacity.

The administration and Congress need to be willing to make the necessary investments into the U.S. submarine industrial base that will advance the security of the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

We look forward to working with your administration to take the steps to implement the vision of AUKUS fully, including investments in the U.S. submarine industrial base. The enhanced security of the United States – and Australia and the United Kingdom – depend on our mutual collaboration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 1:52 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>; Executive Office USA s 47E(d) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>; McNamara, Belinda MS <belinda.mcnamara@defence.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Mccourt <Suzanne.McCourt@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT : HOM and Risch phone call - s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au> s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)
 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi all

Thanks for the conversations about this last minute call between Senator Jim Risch Ranking Member SFRC and the Ambassador <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

also seeks an update on the status of AUKUS legislation in Congress.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(I), s 33(a)(III)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

Thanks

s22(1)(a)(ii)

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Sheldon Whitehouse
Position	Senator for Rhode Island (D)
Organisation	US Senate
Date and Time	17 October 2023, 15:00PM
Location	104 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20515
Point of contact	s 47F(1) , Director of Scheduling // s 47F(1) @whitehouse.senate.gov
Other attendees	s22(1)(a)(ii) , First Secretary, Congressional s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @SenWhitehouse

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory meeting with progressive, leading Senate voice on climate and chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

Who sought the meeting: **s 47E(d)**

Outcome we seek from the meeting: **s 33(a)(iii)**

KEY MESSAGES

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

- **s 33(a)(iii)**

BIOGRAPHY



Sheldon Whitehouse
 Junior Senator for Rhode
 Island (D)

Education: BA, Yale University (Architecture), 1978
 JD, University of Virginia Law School, 1982

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2013-present	Senator for Rhode Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman, Budget Committee • Senate Finance Committee • Senate Judiciary Committee • Senate Environment and Public Works Committee • Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe
1999-2003	Rhode Island Attorney General
1994-1998	United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island
1992-1994	Director, Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
1984-1994	Various law and policy role, Rhode Island Government

Sheldon Whitehouse is Rhode Island’s junior, **s 33(a)(iii)**, who has held the role since 2006.
s 33(a)(iii)

Whitehouse has a **long history of holding public office in Rhode Island**, using his law background to serve Rhode Island in various capacities since 1984. Whitehouse **s 33(a)(iii)** a descendant of Charles Crocker, one of California’s “Big Four” who built the Central Pacific Railroad. He was born in New York City and grew up overseas, though has lived in Rhode Island since 1984. He is **up for US Senate re-election in 2024, s 33(a)(iii)**

Fun fact: Whitehouse’s father, diplomat Charles Whitehouse, served as **U.S. Ambassador to Laos and Thailand in the 1970s**. As a teenager, Senator Whitehouse taught English to Vietnamese children in Saigon.

EVENT BRIEF: FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIA CAUCUS (FOAC) DINNER

DETAILS

Nature of event	Formal dinner with Friends of Australia Caucus (FOAC) members and staffers, with accompanying VIPs from the <i>Irrititja Kuwarri Tjungu</i> exhibition launch [separate brief provided] and leading figures from the DMV's cultural and arts community.
Date	17 October 2023
Time	7.30pm-9pm
Venue	Julia Gillard Auditorium [seating plan provided]
Host	Ambassador Rudd and Ms Rein
Dress code	Business attire
Purpose of engagement	<p>To welcome FOAC members to the new Embassy of Australia and thank them for their ongoing friendship and advocacy in pursuit of our shared interests.</p> <p>To acknowledge the Indigenous artists and curators whose work is being showcased in <i>Irrititja Kuwarri Tjungu</i>, the first exhibition in the new Embassy's permanent exhibition space, and leading figures from the DMV's cultural and arts community.</p>
Media / social media	s 47E(d)
Event lead	s22(1)(a)(ii) , Exec. Officer to the Ambassador, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison, s22(1)(a)(ii)
Handling note	<p>s 33(a)(iii)</p> <p>s 47E(d)</p> <p>Visiting Australian Members of Parliament Andrew Wallace MP and Rob Mitchell MP will join the dinner.</p>

ATTENDEES

Total number of attendees	72: includes all – FOAC, staffer, cultural, Post. NB: While all 81 FOAC members were invited, s 47E(d)
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RUNNING ORDER

7.30pm	Guests are ushered from Exhibition Space to the Julia Gillard Auditorium <i>NB: An official photo [HOM/FOAC and HOM/FOAC/artists] will be taken in the atrium en route into the auditorium</i>
7.40pm	All guests are seated and commence dinner <i>NB: Salads will be pre-positioned at each place setting</i>
7.45pm	Brief welcome remarks by M-C [Suzanne McCourt, Minister Counsellor, Congressional]
7.55pm	Entrée service begins
8.15pm	M-C introduces HOM to the lectern HOM to provide short (7-10 minutes) remarks <i>NB: Entrées will be cleared</i>
8.25pm	HOM invites FOAC Co-Chair/s to the lectern [Rep. Courtney confirmed; Sen. Sullivan TBC] FOAC Co-Chair/s to provide short (3-5 minute) remarks HOM thanks Co-Chairs for their leadership role, and escorts Co-Chairs to their table
8.35pm	Dessert and tea/coffee service begins
8.50pm	M-C thanks guests for their attendance and draws official proceedings to a close <i>NB: Desserts will be cleared</i>
9pm	Event concludes

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

FOAC BIOGRAPHIES



Joe Courtney
 (D-Connecticut)

Co-Chair, Friends of Australia
 Caucus
 Co-Chair, AUKUS Working Group

- Armed Services Committee
 - Ranking Member, Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee
- Education and Workforce Committee

Courtney has been actively engaged in the alliance, particularly on security matters, and is an active FOAC Chair. His district in eastern Connecticut is home to Electric Boat, where Virginia and Columbia class submarines are built, **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**



Dan Sullivan
 (R-Alaska)

Co-Chair, Friends of Australia
 Caucus

- Armed Services Committee
- Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
- Environment and Public Works Committee
- Veterans Affairs Committee

Sullivan became the Republican co-chair of the Friends of Australia Caucus in January 2023 and has been an active Chair. **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**



Shelley Moore Capito
 (R-West Virginia)

- Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee
- Appropriations Committee
- Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee
- Rules and Administration Committee

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)



Pete Ricketts
 (R-Nebraska)

- Foreign Relations Committee
 - Ranking Member Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee
 - Member East Asia, the Pacific and International Cyber Security Subcommittee
- Environment and Public Works Committee
- Select Aging Committee

Pete Ricketts served as Nebraska’s Governor just prior to being appointed Senator in late January 2023. **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**



Michael McCaul
 (R-Texas)

- Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
- Former Chair, House Homeland Security Committee

McCaul became Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) when Republicans retook the House in January 2023. As HFAC's top Republican since 2019, **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**



Gregory Meeks
 (D-New York)

- Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs Committee
- Financial Services Committee

When Meeks served as Chairman of HFAC he focused on new relationships with countries in the Western Hemisphere and Africa. His interests have also included Iran sanctions, private-sector development in Haiti and relations with South American countries.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)



Andy Barr
(R-Kentucky)

- Financial Services Committee
- Foreign Affairs Committee
 - Member, Indo-Pacific Subcommittee
- Select Committee on China

In May 2020, then House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy appointed Barr to serve on the House China Task Force. The task force was created to provide recommendations for the US to better position itself against the emerging economic, political, military and technological threat from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Barr was appointed co-chair of the subgroup on Competitiveness along with the subgroup on Economics and Energy. **s 33(a)(iii)**



Buddy Carter
(R-Georgia)

- Energy and Commerce Committee
- Budget Committee

A former businessman and pharmacy owner, **s 33(a)(iii)**

In September of this year, Carter was appointed the conference committee on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which sets the military's fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding levels and provides for national security and military priorities.



Steve Cohen
(D-Tennessee)

- Judiciary Committee
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Steve Cohen has been representing Tennessee's 9th District (southwest, including Memphis) since 2007. Representing a majority-minority district, **s 33(a)(iii)**

He previously served in the Tennessee Senate for 24 years. Cohen is also the co-chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) where he has led the fight against global kleptocracy. **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)**



Neal Dunn
 (R-Florida)

- Energy and Commerce Committee
- Select Committee on China

s 33(a)(iii)

Prior to being elected to Congress, Dunn was a practicing surgeon for 25 years and was active in the medical community. Dunn visited Australia on the China Select Committee's CODEL led by Chairman Gallagher. Dunn has attended other large FOAC receptions. s 33(a)(iii)



Jim Himes
 (D-Connecticut)

- Financial Services Committee
- Ranking Member, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

s 33(a)(iii)



Derek Kilmer
 (D-Washington)

- Appropriations Committee
- House Administration Committee

Kilmer is a member of the Bipartisan Working Group – a group of moderates from both sides of the aisle working to find centrist solutions. For four years Kilmer chaired the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress where it made numerous recommendations on how the Congress could operate more efficiently and be more responsive to constituents. He is also a New Democrat and supports free trade which is important to his district. Kilmer attended the FOAC launch reception in 2017.



Donald Norcross

(D-New Jersey)

- Armed Services Committee
 - Ranking Member, Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee
- Education and Labour Committee

As the Ranking Member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, **s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)**

MEETING BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	Brandon Williams
Position	Representative, New York's 22 nd District (R)
Organisation	US House of Representatives
Date and Time	18 October 2023, 2:15PM
Location	1022 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Point of contact	s 47F(1) Scheduler // s 33(a)(iii)
Other attendees	s22(1)(a)(ii) , Senior Congressional Liaison, Defence
Media / social media	Photo for tweet: @repwilliams

Purpose of the meeting: Introductory meeting with a freshman representative interested in AUKUS.

Who sought the meeting: s 47E(d)

Outcome we seek from the meeting: s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

KEY MESSAGES

- The **fast and effective implementation of AUKUS initiatives** - submarines and advanced capabilities - would s33(a)(iii) demonstrate the strength of our shared commitment to an open, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific.
- The current **global supply chain** and energy crunch underscores the importance of strengthening investment and supply chain linkages between like-minded partners, such as on **critical minerals**.

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

BACKGROUND

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

BIOGRAPHY



Brandon Williams
 Representative, NY-22 (R)

Education: BA, Pepperdine University (CA)
 MBA, Wharton School of Business, Penn (PA)

FOAC Member: No

Career:

2022- Present	Representative for New York's 22 nd District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Committee • Transportation Committee • Science and Technology Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Energy Subcommittee
2013-2022	Co-Founder holding various leadership roles, CPLANE.ai
1998-2022	Various tech business ventures
1990-1996	Nuclear submarine officer, US Navy

s 33(a)(iii)

Prior to Congress, Williams owned a tech business and served in the U.S. Navy. In August 1990, during the build up to the first Gulf War, he began service as a **nuclear submarine officer for the Navy**. He attended Officer Candidate School and trained as a nuclear engineer. During his military service, he made **six strategic-deterrent patrols in the Pacific** aboard the USS Georgia, serving as the Strategic Missile Officer. After his service, he earned a business degree and **co-founded the software outfit CPLANE.aim** — a company dedicated to automating cloud computing for large-scale industries.

A native of Dallas Texas, Williams and his wife of 30 years, Stephanie, reside just outside of the central New York district he represents.

Transcript of Signal Message**Date: Saturday, 4 November 2023**

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)

To: HOM

Hi Ambassador - s22(1) here. Suzanne asked me to send you some points for your chat to Chair McCaul today:

- Our priority remains bipartisan legislation passing this year on all parts of the AUKUS agenda.

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)



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VISIT TO CONNECTICUT 6 NOVEMBER 2023

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EVENT BRIEF: VISIT TO CONNECTICUT

Nature of Event	Tour of General Dynamics Electric Boat submarine shipyard in Groton Connecticut and meeting with Representative Joe Courtney and US Navy and industry leadership.
Date	Monday 6 November
Time	Full day engagement
Venue	Various facilities in Connecticut
Hosts	Representative Joe Courtney (D-Connecticut) s 47F(1), Vice President Virginia Class Construction, General Dynamics Electric Boat Rob Scott, President, Birdon
Post POC	s22(1)(a)(ii) First Secretary, Australian Submarine Agency s22(1)(a)(ii)
US POCs	EB: s 47F(1) NR: s 47F(1) Birdon: s 47F(1) /s 47F(1)
Dress code	Civilian: business casual (long sleeve shirt, full-length pants and sturdy closed shoes required) / Military: W3
Expected weather	Cloudy, low of 9 / high of 13 (Celsius)
Purpose of engagement	Visit key shipbuilding facilities relevant to AUKUS and engage with Representative Joe Courtney and US Navy and industry leadership.



ATTENDEES

Total Attendees	Approximately 12
VVIPs / VIPs Biographies Attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Joe Courtney (D-Connecticut) Member, House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member, House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee • s 47F(1) Senior Executive, Virginia Class Construction and International Exchange Program • s 47F(1) Program Manager – AUKUS Technical Exchange • s 47F(1) Vice President Virginia Class Construction, General Dynamics Electric Boat • s 47F(1) International Programs, General Dynamics Electric Boat • Lt Governor Susan Bysiewicz Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut • Mr Rob Scott President, Birdon • s 47F(1) Enterprise Support Services Vice President, Birdon • s 47F(1) Program Director, 47' Motor Life Boat Service Life Extension Program, Birdon • s 47F(1) MLB Program Manager, Birdon, • s 47F(1) MLB Production & Marina Manager, Birdon • s 47F(1) Strategic Advisor, Birdon USA



RUNNING ORDER – KEY ITEMS (WITH ASSOCIATED LOCAL TIMINGS)

s 47F(1), s 47E(d)

1030-1200	<p>Tour of Electric Boat, Groton</p> <p><u>Accompanied by:</u> RADM Murray, Ms Ridout, s22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><u>US attendees:</u> Representative Joe Courtney, s 47F(1) (Staff assistant to Representative Courtney), s 47F(1) (NR), s 47F(1) (NR), s 47F(1) (EB), s 47F(1) (EB)</p>
1200-1215	<p><i>Transit to lunch location (minivan: HOM/RADM Murray, s22(1)(a)(ii) ; NYCG vehicle: NYCG Ridout, s22(1)(a)(ii)</i></p>
1215-1300	<p>Lunch with Representative Joe Courtney</p> <p><u>Location:</u> s 47E(d)</p> <p><u>Accompanied by:</u> RADM Murray, Ms Ridout, s22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><u>US attendees:</u> Mr Courtney, s 47F(1)</p> <p><i>Remaining AUS delegation own means lunch</i></p>
s 47E(d)	
1415-1515	<p>Engagement with Birdon</p> <p><u>Location:</u> 54 Riverview St, Portland, Connecticut</p> <p><u>Accompanied by:</u> RADM Murray, Ms Ridout, s22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p><u>US attendees:</u> Lt Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Mr Rob Scott, s22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
s 47E(d)	

ATTACHMENT A: BIOGRAPHIES



Representative Joe COURTNEY
Representative for Connecticut's
2nd Congressional District

s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(i), s 47F(1)

Vice President Virginia Class
Construction Program, General
Dynamics Electric Boat



s 47F(1)

Lt. Governor Susan BYSIEWICZ



s 47F(1)

Mr Rob SCOTT
President, Birdon

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

Enterprise Support Services
(ESS) - Vice President, Birdon

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

Program Director, 47' Motor Life
Boat (MLB) Service Life
Extension Program (SLEP),
Birdon

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

MLB Program Manager, Birdon

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

MLB Production & Marina
Manager, Birdon

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

Strategic Advisor, Birdon USA

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii)

ATTACHMENT C: BIRDON COMPANY PROFILE

