



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Deborah K Ross
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Stephen John Wrinn OR None   
 b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 29th Return: September 3rd  
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: August 28th and September 3rd 2022 OR None
4. Departure City: Raleigh, NC Destination: Reykjavik, Iceland Return City: Raleigh, NC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Aspen Institute Inc
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):  
Agenda attached.

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.  
**Signify statement is true by checking the box.**  
 b. If not, explain:

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.** I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: 

Date: 9/14/22



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within ten days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Cher W Dent Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.**

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Deborah K. Ross

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: 1 Independence Ave SE, 1208 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-3032

Email Address of Contact Person: maura.haydin@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

**NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.**

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Deborah K. Ross

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
The Aspen Institute, Inc

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Reykjavik, Iceland

4. a. Date of Departure: August 29th Date of Return: September 2nd.

b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: August 28th, 2022 and September 3rd, 2022

5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Stephen John Wrinn

(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.

**Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

Congresswoman Ross and her husband, Steve, are joining the Aspen Institute on a visit to Reykjavik, Iceland. This trip will offer Members of Congress an opportunity to engage with leaders and visit important sites in the energy and climate change space near the Arctic Circle.

9. Yes  No  **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Name of your organization: Democracy Fund
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. I certify by my signature that
  - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Joe Goldman Digitally signed by Joe Goldman  
Date: 2021.06.08 09:33:59 -04'00' Date: 06/08/2021

Name: Joe Goldman Title: President

Organization: Democracy Fund

Address: 1200 17th St., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20036

Email: jgoldman@democracyfund.org Telephone: (202) 420-7900



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation.

Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

- Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
- Name of your organization: Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
- Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
- Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
- Check only one:**
  - My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
- I certify by my signature that
  - I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 06/22/2021

Name: Stephen Heintz Title: President and CEO

Organization: Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Address: 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 900, New York, NY 10115

Email: echege@rbf.org Telephone: (212) 812-4208



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**

b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**

c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:

Democracy Fund and Rockefeller Brothers Fund

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):

See attached appendix

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of departure: Aug. 29, 2022 Date of return: Sept. 2, 2022

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or district

b. Destination(s): Reykjavik, Iceland

c. City of return: Washington, DC or district

8. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**

b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**

c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following:**

a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**

b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**

c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**

d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
- Aspen Institute's Congressional Program (AICP) provides nonpartisan educational forums for members of Congress on public policy issues. AICP organized and will conduct the conference and selected and invited the attendees. The foundations listed in 3C provide grant funding to AICP generally. They do not play a role in organizing or conducting the conference.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):  
\$120 See attached appendix
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:  
See attached appendix
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Grand Hotel Reykjavik City: Reykjavik, Iceland Cost Per Night: \$285  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Hotel has required technology and meeting space; Security a key factor
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

### 18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2406	\$855	\$360
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$2406	\$0	\$360

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$716	see attached appendix
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$716	see attached appendix

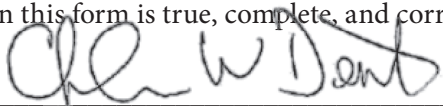
**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

### 19. Check only one:

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable*. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

### 20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 07/22/2022

Name: Charles W. Dent Title: Vice President-The Aspen Institute, Inc.

Organization: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

Address: 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org Telephone: (202) 736-5859

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

**For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:**

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)



# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

August 22, 2022

The Honorable Deborah K. Ross  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1208 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Iceland,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for August 28 to September 3, 2022, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc., Democracy Fund, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund. We note that this trip includes two days at your personal expense.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$415] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch  
Chairman



Michael Guest  
Acting Ranking Member

TED/MG:rp

## House invitee

Rep. Brian Babin; House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Rep. Nanette Barragan; House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Ami Bera; House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rep. Julia Brownley; House Committee Transportation and Infrastructure

Rep. Sean Casten; House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Rep. Lou Correa; House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. John Curtis; House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Ted Deutch; House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rep. John Garamendi; House Committee on Armed Services

Rep. Ann Mclane Kuster; House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Darin LaHood; House Committee on Ways and Means

Rep. Doug Lamborn; House Committee on Armed Services

Rep. Rick Larsen; House Committee on Armed Services

Rep. Greg Murphy; House Committee on Ways and Means

Rep. Chellie Pingree; House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Deborah Ross; House Committee on Science<sup>1</sup> Space, and Technology

Rep. David Rouzer; Ho. use Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jan Schakowsky; House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Fred Upton; House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Brad Wenstrup; House Committee on Ways and Means

# ENERGY SECURITY & THE ARCTIC: KEYS TO AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS

The Aspen Institute Congressional Program  
August 29 – September 2, 2022  
Reykjavik, Iceland

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### MONDAY, August 29:

Participants travel to Reykjavik

### TUESDAY, August 30:

Participants arrive in Reykjavik on early morning flights.

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM** Lunch

**12:30 – 4:30 PM**  
*Educational Site Visits*

We will visit four examples of addressing energy and climate challenges, all demonstrated at the commercial-scale geothermal power station at Hellisheidi, Iceland. The U.S. currently has 14 large-scale carbon capture and sequestration facilities based on similar scientific principles. These examples in Iceland are a convenient way to demonstrate that carbon extraction is one potential method of reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

#### **COMMERCIAL-SCALE GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION**

We will visit the third-largest geothermal powerplant in the world, which provides renewable geothermal heating for 7 out of 10 homes in Iceland. This plant, which opened in 2006, is the most recent addition to Iceland's fossil fuel-free energy production. This visit will help participants understand the significance and history of the geothermal heating and power generation that puts Iceland in the forefront of renewable energy use. Participants will have opportunities to engage with the Hellisheidi Power Station staff to assess applicable lessons for U.S. policy.

**Bjarni Bjarnason**, *CEO, Orkeveita Reykjavíkur*  
*(Reykjavik's energy utility)*

**Brynhildur Davidsdóttir**, *Board Chair, Orkeveita Reykjavíkur*

**Bergur Sigfússon**, *Geochemist, Orkuveita Reykjavíkur*

### **INNOVATIVE CARBON CAPTURE AND MINERALIZATION**

Participants will visit CarbFix, a unique carbon removal operation, which extracts carbon dioxide from the geothermal power plant, mixes it with water, and pumps it underground, where it bonds with porous basalt rock and becomes solid. This project was originally partially supported with research grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation and is seen as one potential tool for mitigating the impacts of climate change by reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.

*Kristinn Ingi Lárusson, Head of Business Development, CarbFix*

### **WORLD'S LARGEST DIRECT AIR CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT**

Climeworks, a Swiss clean technology company, operates a pilot project to test the viability of extracting carbon dioxide from the air with the world's first commercial direct air capture carbon removal technology.

*Jan Wurzbacher, Founder and CEO, Climeworks*

### **INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE USING CAPTURED CO<sub>2</sub>**

VAXA Technologies, founded by an MIT scientist, converts clean energy into food using vertical cultivation of microalgae. This process converts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the adjacent geothermal powerplant into edible organic carbon (essential amino and fatty acids in algae edible by livestock), using less than 1% of the land and water of conventional agriculture, in a controlled indoor growing environment.

*Isaac Berzin, Founder and Chief Technical Officer,  
VAXA Technologies*

*Kristinn Hafliðason, General Manager, VAXA Technologies*

**6:30 – 7:30 PM**  
*Pre-Dinner Remarks*

### **ICELAND'S VIEWS ON ENERGY & CLIMATE**

The last decade was the hottest on record. As a country just below the Arctic Circle, Iceland faces some of the most direct impacts of climate change. For example, two years ago, one of its prominent glaciers melted away. Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir will provide her insights on Iceland's energy and climate policies.

*Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland*

**7:30 – 9:00 PM**  
*Working Dinner*

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions regarding America's energy future.

**WEDNESDAY, August 31:**

**7:30 – 9:00 AM**

Breakfast is available for all participants

**9:00 – 9:15 AM**

**INTRODUCTION AND FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE**

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations and pre-dinner remarks. This segment will highlight how the conference will be conducted, how those with questions will be recognized, and how responses will be timed to allow for as many questions and answers as possible.

**Charlie Dent**, *Executive Director,*  
*Aspen Institute Congressional Program*

**9:15 – 11:00 AM**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

**THE CHANGING GLOBAL ENERGY PICTURE:  
CHALLENGES FOR SECURITY,  
GOVERNANCE, CLIMATE AND TRADE**

The war in Ukraine has upended global energy presumptions. The sanctions motivate Europe to wean itself off Russian energy, causing impacts on global supply and price, re-aligning energy flows. The war has sparked a new focus on lessening dependence on foreign oil. The impacts of climate change are also adding pressure on energy policies. The Arctic is warming two to three times faster than the global average, which has environmental, economic, and geopolitical implications. In the last five years, Arctic air temperatures have exceeded all previous records since 1900. The amount of Arctic ice has shrunk from 3 million square miles to 2 million square miles since 1980. Melting ice makes the Northern Sea Route across Russia's northern coast 5,000 miles shorter and therefore more viable to ship goods from China to Europe with two weeks less transit time. Expanded activity in a melting Arctic highlights an important disparity: Russia has 53 arctic-capacity icebreakers, China has four, and the U.S. only two. In an area of undefined borders, governance issues will become more challenging, with eight countries on three continents all making claims to Arctic resources. Even China, which labels itself a "near-Arctic state," is increasing its arctic involvement: It has invested \$154 million in Iceland since 2012 and launched an Arctic Science Observatory in northern Iceland. Making communities resilient in the face of the changing environment is a challenge that will be faced worldwide. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers has

identified 31 Alaskan communities that need to be relocated because of environmental change.

- What are the global impacts for energy policy from the war in Ukraine?
- What are the implications of an opening Arctic Ocean to commercial use and shipping?
- What are the impacts of Arctic warming on the environment and humanity, and are they irreversible?
- What are possible policy solutions to the challenges outlined in this session?

**Sherri Goodman**, *Secretary General, International Military Council on Climate & Security; former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense*

**Joseph Majkut**, *Director, Energy Security & Climate Change, Center for Strategic and International Studies*

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

Break

**11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

**THE CHALLENGE OF RESPONSIBLY ENDING GLOBAL ENERGY POVERTY**

Billions of people, primarily in the developing world, lack access to a source of reliable electricity. This “energy poverty” contributes to lack of health care, limited heating and cooking capabilities, minimal telecommunications, and a poor quality of education which crimps economic opportunity. Bringing a reliable source of energy to these communities is a huge challenge, one made more acute in the aftermath of the global pandemic. A massive expansion of electrical access around the globe is an opportunity to further the reach of sustainable technologies. Raj Shah, formerly director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, will analyze the challenge ahead with its global implications.

- What role should the U.S. play in providing access to reliable, affordable, and clean electricity around the world?
- How does the goal of alleviating poverty and supporting clean energy intersect?
- Is access to electrical power a shared multilateral concern?
- How does ending global energy poverty impact climate concerns?

**Rajiv Shah**, *President, The Rockefeller Foundation*

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**  
*Working Luncheon*

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on challenges for U.S. energy policy.

**2:30 – 4:00 PM**  
*Individual Discussions*

Members of Congress and scholars meet individually to discuss U.S. energy policy. Scholars available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions include Sherri Goodman, Joseph Majkut, and Rajiv Shah.

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
*Working Dinner*

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions regarding America's energy future.

### **THURSDAY, September 1:**

**7:30 – 9:00 AM**

Breakfast is available

**9:00 – 11:00 AM**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

#### **GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY: EXPANDING AMERICA'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY**

Market forces and technological development drive international commerce of energy resources. The shipment of energy across international boundaries—cross-border pipelines and powerlines, as well as maritime commerce of oil and liquid natural gas—has geo-strategic economic and security consequences which are further compounded by climate change. Europe's desire to cut back its dependence on Russian oil and gas has also disrupted the energy sector. Energy supply and demand are the drivers of global commerce and are also a key security concern as the energy impacts of the war in Ukraine illustrates. The International Energy Agency predicts that wind and solar could provide 70% of power generated by 2050, compared to 9% in 2020. Progress in addressing climate change requires new technologies that offer opportunities for American ingenuity to develop low carbon sources, enhancing international competitiveness.

- What are the investments required now to ensure international competitiveness in a low carbon future?
- What kinds of carbon pricing mechanisms are there, and what are their advantages and disadvantages? Which are politically viable?
- If some countries impose a "carbon tax" and others don't, what are the economic consequences of this dichotomy?
- What kind of energy mix best positions the U.S. economy going forward?
- Does climate change impact economic growth?
- Will a growing renewable energy mix cause economic challenges?

**Carlos Pascual, Senior Vice President, Head of Geopolitics & International Affairs, S&P Global Commodity Insights**

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

Break

**11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

**GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY:  
THE NEXUS OF SECURITY & CLIMATE**

The security of the United States is inextricably linked to the global supply and demand of energy sources. Between geopolitical chokepoints of fuel transportation, and the importance of maintaining a reliable source of energy, there is a need to stay abreast of emerging threats and opportunities for cooperation. The threats of energy flow disruptions due to security concerns such as the war in Ukraine and climate change impacts that aren't limited to international boundaries compel energy policy to be a top priority for governments. Warmer average temperatures can lead to the spread of pandemic diseases, forced migration and unforeseeable collateral impacts. America's newfound status as a global energy superpower provides greater flexibility in foreign policy decisions and can allow decision makers to redirect foreign policy strategy. Advancements in renewables and energy efficiency impact consumption patterns with implications for producers, consumers, and government policy. Multilateral action is required because climate change does not limit its impact to national boundaries. The energy impact of the war in Ukraine has widespread implications, and potential sanctions will force hard choices for some European countries that are highly dependent on Russian energy.

- What are the global strategic implications of the U.S. having achieved "energy independence"?
- Is it in the security interest of the U.S. to help promote and fund Green Energy projects in other countries because greenhouse gases know no boundaries?
- How will human and animal migrations from climate change impact the international order?
- Is the United Nations the best organization for managing international climate agreements?
- What is the benefit of the U.S. adopting renewable energy strategies if the rest of the world doesn't?
- Is there a geopolitical benefit to taking the lead on global discussions on managing climate change?
- Will the war in Ukraine spark more or less demand for Green Energy innovation?

**Ray Mabus**, *former Secretary of the Navy,  
former Mississippi Governor,  
former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia*

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**  
*Working Luncheon*

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on the challenges for U.S. energy policy.

**2:30 – 4:00 PM**  
*Individual Discussions*

Members of Congress and scholars meet individually to discuss U.S. energy policy. Scholars available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions include Carlos Pascual and Ray Mabus.

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**  
*Pre-Dinner Remarks*

**ICELAND'S INNOVATIVE APPROACHES  
TO ENERGY CHALLENGES**

Iceland has a plan to become carbon neutral. Approximately 85 percent of its primary energy comes from renewable sources—geothermal and hydropower. It has charging stations for electrical vehicles throughout the country, as well as filling stations for hydrogen fuel cars powered by fuel cells. Iceland remade itself from one of Europe's poorest into a nation that is financially and environmentally secure. Former Iceland President Ólafur Grímsson has said: "It's about the economic transformation of the country to realize that the move from fossil fuels over to clean energy is fundamentally good business—the road to prosperity and economic achievement."

*Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, former President of Iceland,  
Chair, the Arctic Circle and  
Chair, International Renewable Energy Agency's  
Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation*

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
*Working Dinner*

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions regarding America's energy future.

**FRIDAY, September 2:**

**7:30 – 8:30 AM**

Breakfast is available

**8:30 – 10:30 AM**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

**STRATEGIES FOR EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:  
ADAPTATION AND PREVENTION**

The need for resiliency caused by the impacts of climate change is increasingly apparent in every state, from coastal flooding in Gulf states to droughts and wildfires in California to widespread excessive heat causing soaring demand for high-cost energy-consuming air conditioning. The recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states that steps necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences require more than

incremental policy changes. Adapting to these challenges requires innovative methods of retrofitting building and energy infrastructures, emergency preparation, and dramatic reforms to the insurance industry—all with implications for policymakers and the marketplace. Bringing electric grids up to a high standard of efficiency, reliability and performance is a core building block in having a greater mix of energy sources to meet our electrical demand. As renewable energies are more widely used, their per unit costs drop making their adoption more affordable. Climate change can impose damage to unprotected infrastructure, with detrimental economic consequences if both preventive and resiliency strategies are not deployed to minimize the impact.

- How is research and development properly sorted out between the public and the private sector as it relates to finding innovative solutions to energy and climate challenges that will ultimately be used for the public good?
- How can government best promote continued technological improvements that provide reliable, safe, resilient energy at an affordable cost without heavy intervention in the marketplace?
- What role does retrofitting current infrastructure play in mitigating or reversing carbon emissions?
- What can be done to support communities that have historically relied on traditional fuel sources? What role do these communities play in the future?
- How should the U.S. best prepare for the future considering irreversible climate change impacts, continued growth in demand for energy, and a constantly changing mix of energy sources?
- Are reducing carbon pollution while expanding economic growth compatible goals?
- What are the dividing lines between federal and local governments and private property owners in both preventative and adaptive strategies to deal with the impacts of climate change?

**Neil Chatterjee**, *former Chair,  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*

**Hal Harvey**, *CEO, Energy Innovation*

**10:30 AM – Noon**  
*Roundtable Discussion*

#### **POLICY REFLECTIONS**

Members of Congress will reflect on the week's discussions and chart potential paths forward for federal legislation.

**12:15 – 1:15 PM**

Lunch

**1:45 PM**

Participants depart for the airport for late afternoon flight departures to return to the U.S.