

# 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: Ron Estes
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ *OR*  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: May 25, 2024 Return: June 1, 2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ *OR*  None
4. Departure City: Wichita, KS Destination: Sydney, Australia Return City: Wichita, KS
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Aspen Insistue Inc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): See 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: Ron Estes

Date: 06-17-24

# 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 in the trip within 10 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 or provided in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

2. Travel Destination(s): Sydney, Australia and Canberra, Australia

3. Date of Departure: May 25, 2024

Date of Return: June 1, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Ron Estes

*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	\$11,121	\$2,075 See Appendix	\$455 See Appendix	\$1,345: Private meeting space, AV, conference services
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:  Date: 14-June-2024

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

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

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

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

Telephone: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org

Email: 202-736-5859

*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.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Ron Estes
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: Sydney and Canberra, Australia
4. a. Date of Departure: May 25, 2024 Date of Return: June 1, 2024  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
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: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (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, invitation, 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.**  
As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I will be attending meetings to discuss various energy and trade issues between the U.S. and Australia.
9. Yes  No  **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: Ron Estes Date: 04-24-24



# 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's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

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, services, or in-kind assistance 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Breakthrough Energy Foundation and Climate Imperative

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 Appendix

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

6. Date of Departure: May 25, 2024 Date of Return: June 1, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or member's congressional district

b. Destination(s): Sydney and Canberra, Australia

c. City of return: Washington, DC or member's congressional 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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 - Breakthrough Energy Foundation and Climate Imperative - did not play a role in organizing or conducting the conference. The foundations provided grant funding for the program.

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 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$85 per day (See attached Appendix)**

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
The location provides access to experts related to conference topic.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Four Seasons City: Sydney, Australia Cost Per Night: \$319

Reason(s) for Selecting: Facility has required technology and meeting space. Security a key factor.

Hotel Name: Hyatt Hotel Canberra City: Canberra, Australia Cost Per Night: \$161

Reason(s) for Selecting: Facility has required technology and meeting space. Security a key factor.

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.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$13,947	\$2,075 See Appendix	\$455 See Appendix
For each Accompanying Family Member			

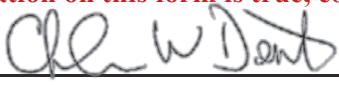
	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1,345	Private meeting space, AV, conference services
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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: 13-June-2024  
 Name: Charlie 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

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Ron Estes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Australia,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for May 25 to June 1, 2024, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc., Breakthrough Energy Foundation, and Climate Imperative Foundation.

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 \$480 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 \$480] 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. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc



# 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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Name of your organization: Climate Imperative Foundation
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: Christina Fernandes Digitally signed by Christina Fernandes  
Date: 2024.04.25 20:02:24 -07'00' Date: April 25, 2024

Name: Christina Fernandes Title: Treasurer & Secretary

Organization: Climate Imperative Foundation

Address: 98 Battery St, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94111

Telephone: 415-799-2162 Email: christina@climateimperative.org

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

# 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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Name of your organization: Breakthrough Energy Foundation
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:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/15/2024

Name: Shawn Liu Title: Legal Director

Organization: Breakthrough Energy Foundation

Address: PO Box 563, Kirkland, WA 98119

Telephone: 303-625-3158 Email: shawn@breakthroughenergy.org

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



**CONGRESSIONAL  
PROGRAM**  
aspen institute

**The Honorable Ron Estes**

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0306**

Dear Representative Estes,

I would like to invite you and Susan to our bipartisan, bicameral congressional conference on ***Policy Opportunities for U.S. Energy Innovation and Security*** in **Sydney, Australia, May 25-June 1, 2024**, including travel dates. Please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by COB Thursday, March 14, 2024**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This invitation does not guarantee your participation in the conference.

As geopolitical competition and U.S. energy security needs continue to accelerate, discussions surrounding the future and viability of certain energy technologies and policies are gaining momentum. Our conference in Australia, featuring roundtable sessions and local site visits, will provide the unique setting to discuss nuclear energy's potential role in reinforcing the reliability and security of the U.S. electricity system, managing load growth and decarbonization, collaborating with allies to secure essential resources and technologies, evaluating the role of natural gas within broader U.S. energy policy, how the U.S. can lead with clean hydrogen and what it means for global shipping, and finally, how emergent relationships like the Quad might play a role in all these policies. Members will learn how Australia is addressing these challenges in its energy security and how the bilateral U.S.-Australia relationship extends past shared national interests, defense cooperation, and foreign relations to cooperation on energy and climate policy.

Attendance is by invitation only, no outside observers, no lobbyists, no congressional staff, and no media. All conference sessions are off-the-record. No foreign governments are accepted to fund the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. As required by the House and Senate ethics rules, we will provide congressional participants with ethics private sponsor forms completed and signed.

Travel expenses, including business class airfare, meals and lodging will be paid for by the Aspen Institute; no expenses for entertainment or recreation are paid for in compliance with ethics rules.

The Congressional Program is part of the Aspen Institute, Inc. a nonprofit organization founded in 1950. The Congressional Program was created to promote leadership on public policy by bringing together legislators from both political parties with internationally renowned scholars for high level discussions and analysis. Since our program's inception, more than 523 members of Congress have participated in the 156 domestic and international conferences.

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

**Charlie Dent**

Charles W. Dent  
Former Member, U.S. Congress (PA-15th, 2005-2018)  
Vice President and Executive Director  
Aspen Institute Congressional Program  
2300 N Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037  
Mobile: (484) 553-1837



# CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM

aspen institute

## Policy Opportunities for U.S. Energy Innovation and Security

May 25 - June 1, 2024 | Sydney and Canberra, Australia

### AGENDA

*Congressional Program Executive Director Charlie Dent moderates the discussion sessions, recognizes members of Congress who have questions, and is assisted by a timekeeper to ensure the conversation is quick paced and every member of Congress has an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues.*

Name	Depart US	Arrive Sydney
Jim Baird	May 25 from Indianapolis at 4:25 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Brendan Boyle	May 25 from Philadelphia at 4:26 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Julia Brownley	May 25 from Washington, DC at 5:41 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Yadira Caraveo	May 25 from Washington, DC at 6:05 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Shelia Cherfilus-McCormick	May 25 from Washington, DC at 5:41 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Dan Crenshaw	May 25 from Houston at 4:40 pm	May 27 at 7:20 am
Tara Crenshaw	May 25 from San Diego at 4:55 pm	May 27 at 7:20 am
Ron Estes	May 25 from Wichita at 5:04 pm	May 27 at 6:55 am
John Garamendi	May 25 from San Francisco at 10:15 pm	May 27 at 6:05 am
Andy Harris	May 25 from Washington, DC at 6:05 pm <small>*overnights in Los Angeles due to late arrival of DC-LAX flight and therefore missing LAX-Sydney flight</small>	May 28 at 6:55 am
Robin Kelly	*May 24 from Washington, DC at 5:41 pm <small>*overnights 5.24 in Los Angeles at personal expense</small> May 25 departs from Los Angeles at 11:45 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Zoe Lofgren	May 25 departs San Francisco at 1:45 am	May 26 at 7:15 pm
Raul Ruiz	May 25 departs Los Angeles at 11:45 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Jan Schakowsky	May 25 departs Chicago at 3:01 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Kim Schrier	May 25 departs Seattle at 5:53 pm	May 27 at 6:05 am
Pete Sessions	May 25 departs Washington, DC at 5:41 pm	May 27 at 8:10 am
Randy Weber	May 25 departs Washington, DC at 11:50 am	May 27 at 6:05 am

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 25:**

U.S. participants depart the U.S.

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 26:**

U.S. participants continue travel to Sydney, Australia.

#### **MONDAY, MAY 27:**

U.S. participants arrive in Sydney, Australia.

#### **2:30 – 5 PM: Individual Discussions**

All invited scholars will be available to meet individually with members of Congress to meet each other before the conference panels and discuss policy opportunities for U.S. energy innovation and security.

## **5 – 6 PM: Fireside Chat:**

### ***U.S.-Australia Relations: The Quad, AUKUS, and Energy Security***

This panel will delve into the multifaceted partnership between the United States and Australia, focusing on key areas of collaboration such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), the Australia-United Kingdom-United States Security Partnership (AUKUS), and energy security initiatives. The Quad, comprising the U.S., Australia, India, and Japan, serves as a strategic forum for addressing regional challenges and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between the U.S., Australia, and the U.K., aims to bolster defense capabilities and technological cooperation, particularly in the realm of maritime security. Additionally, the discussion will explore bilateral efforts between the U.S. and Australia to enhance energy security through diversified energy sources, clean energy technologies, in the energy sector.

#### **Speakers:**

**Michael Green**, *Professor, Chief Executive Officer, the United States Studies Centre*  
**Malcolm Turnbull**, *29th Prime Minister of Australia*

## **7 – 9 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. Discussions will focus on emerging trends in U.S. clean energy innovation.

## **TUESDAY, MAY 28:**

### **7 – 9 AM: Breakfast**

### **9 – 9:15 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference**

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, site visits, pre-dinner remarks, and working dinners. 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 much engagement as possible.

#### **Speaker:**

**Charlie Dent**, *Vice President, Aspen Institute;*  
*Executive Director, Aspen Institute Congressional Program*

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

#### ***The Future of Natural Gas in the U.S. Energy System and Beyond***

The fracking boom of nearly twenty years ago pushed the U.S. into becoming the largest producer of natural gas in the world, all while helping to lower energy system emissions through the conversion of coal assets to gas power. And gas has turned out to be an optimal complement to the deployment of intermittent renewable energy like wind and solar, helping to ensure system reliability all while integrating into the grid clean generation assets. Some questions to consider:



- What is the future of natural gas in the context of an ongoing transition to a net-zero U.S. electricity system?
- What role will natural gas play in U.S. energy security in the short, medium, and long terms?
- How should policymakers think about natural gas in the context of broader U.S. energy policy imperatives?
- What are the implications of liquified natural gas for energy security and climate change?

### **Speakers:**

**Rich Powell**, *Chief Executive Officer, Clean Energy Buyers Association*

**Melanie Kenderdine**, *Principal, Executive Vice President, Energy Futures Initiative; Former Energy Counselor to the United States Secretary of Energy*

**11 - 11:15 AM: Break**

**1:15 AM - 1 PM: Roundtable Discussion**

### ***Nuclear Energy in the United States***

Recent advances in fission technologies, combined with renewed business and policymaker interest in nuclear energy more generally, seems to have positioned nuclear energy at the cusp of a renaissance. Some questions to consider:

- What role could nuclear energy play in reinforcing the reliability and security of the U.S. electricity system?
- How should policymakers understand the ways in which nuclear technologies have evolved and continue to evolve?
- In what ways could nuclear energy address climate change imperatives?
- What are the potential opportunities for U.S. leadership on nuclear energy internationally?

### **Speaker:**

**John Kotek**, *Senior Vice President, Policy Development and Public Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute*

**1 – 2 PM: Working Lunch**

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars, including Rich Powell, Melanie Kenderdine, Jonathan Pershing, and Robin Millican, on the future of natural gas and supply chain security in the U.S.

**2 – 5 PM: Individual Discussions**

Scholars will be available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions, including Rich Powell, Melanie Kenderdine, Jonathan Pershing, and Robin Millican.

**7 – 9 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. Discussions will focus on nuclear energy in the U.S. and materials supply chain security.

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 29:**

**7 – 9 AM: Breakfast**

**9 – 11 AM: Roundtable Discussion:**

***Launching New Opportunities: U.S. Clean Hydrogen Leadership and What It Means for Global Shipping***

Ninety percent of globally traded goods are shipped by sea, and maritime trade volumes are expected to triple by 2050. The global maritime shipping sector is undergoing an energy metamorphosis and is expected to decarbonize by 2050, positioning it to become a significant off-taker of green hydrogen-based fuels. This fuel transition will take place on a global scale and creates significant economic opportunities for countries that lead in the development of cutting-edge clean energy maritime technologies and fuels. Building on recent federal investments, the United States has a growing capacity to produce the hydrogen-based maritime fuels and technologies that the global maritime sector needs to meet its ambitious decarbonization goals. This session will consider how the United States can leverage American innovation and resources to help secure a leadership position in these fuels markets while also benefiting the global shipping sector, and American businesses and communities.

### **Speakers:**

**Meg Gentle**, *Executive Director, HIF Global*

**Stephen Metruck**, *Executive Director, Port of Seattle; Former Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard*

**11:30 AM - 6 PM: Educational Site Visit**

***The Port of Newcastle***

The Port of Newcastle is a pivotal hub of maritime activity and trade in Australia. This visit will offer members of Congress a firsthand experience into the operations and significance of one of the largest and busiest ports in the Southern Hemisphere. Members will explore port operations, including cargo handling, vessel navigation, and port infrastructure. They will gain insights into the port's crucial role in facilitating global commerce, supporting regional development, and fostering economic growth.

**7 – 9 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. Discussions will focus on U.S. clean hydrogen leadership and U.S.-Australian climate cooperation.

## **THURSDAY, MAY 30 (Overnight in Canberra):**

**7 – 8 AM: Breakfast**

**9 AM: Depart Hotel**

**Noon – 1 :30 PM: Members of Congress Only Luncheon with Milton Dick, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament**

**1:45 – 2:45 PM: Members of Congress Observe a Session of the Australian Parliament**

Members of Congress observing a session of the Australian Parliament provides a unique opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and legislative insight. As they witness the democratic processes and debates in action, they gain firsthand understanding of Australia's political system and its parliamentary traditions. This experience fosters collaboration and mutual understanding between nations, enriching diplomatic relations and facilitating the exchange of ideas on governance and policy making.

**3 – 4 PM: Meeting with Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia**

The members of Congress discussed how to address climate change and explore opportunities for cooperation to advance U.S. and Australian interests, particularly in the energy sector.

**4:30 – 6 PM: Educational Site Visit to the Australian War Memorial**

This educational site visit will allow members of Congress to gain insight into the sacrifices and valor of Australian servicemen and women from World War I to the present. The memorial serves as a place of reflection and remembrance, ensuring that the human stories behind the conflicts are never forgotten while inspiring future generations to strive for peace and security.

**7:30 – 9:30 PM: Working Dinner and Reception with Australian Senior Government Officials and U.S. Diplomats**

This evening will be dedicated to discussing matters of mutual interest and collaboration between the United States and Australia. It will involve conversations on diplomatic relations, strategic partnerships, and shared objectives over a meal.

**FRIDAY, MAY 31:**

**6:30 – 7:55 AM: Breakfast**

**8 – 9:30 AM: Roundtable Discussion**

***Managing Load Growth – and Decarbonization***

Energy demand (“load”) in the U.S. electricity system is poised to grow by an order of magnitude over the next few decades, and consequently ensuring system reliability while meeting this growing demand (from electrification of new sectors, onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of artificial intelligence services, and more) will be a major challenge. All the while, decarbonization remains a critical parallel priority. The main question to consider: What are tools, policies, and technologies that can meet this challenge?

**Speakers:**

**Anna Foglesong**, *Clean Grid Initiative*

**Jim Connaughton**, *Nautilus Data Technologies; former Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality*

## **9:30 – 9:45 AM: Break**

## **9:45 AM – 11 AM: Roundtable Discussion**

### ***Materials Supply Chain Security***

As geopolitical competition accelerates, the national and energy security of the United States and its allies will increasingly necessitate attention to supply chain vulnerabilities regarding certain materials and technologies which are essential to the reliability of the energy system and decarbonization efforts. Some questions to consider:

- Looking at critical minerals mining and processing, photovoltaic precursors, hydrogen electrolyzers, and other essential supply chain flows, in what ways might the United States best work with allies to ensure the security of essential resources and technologies?
- How might emergent international relationships like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (or, “the Quad”) play a role? What essential risks might be top priorities for policymaker attention?

### **Speakers:**

**Jonathan Pershing**, *Program Director, Environment, Hewlett Foundation; Former U.S. State Department Special Envoy for Climate*

**Robin Millican**, *Senior Director, U.S. Policy and Advocacy, Breakthrough Energy*

## **11 AM – Noon: Working Lunch**

Discussion continues between Members of Congress and scholars, including Anna Foglesong, Jim Connaughton, Jonathan Pershing, and Robin Millican about materials supply chain security and load growth.

## **Noon – 4 PM: Travel from Canberra to Sydney**

## **6:15 – 8:15 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. Discussions will focus on Members’ policy reflections and ideas generated throughout the conference.

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 1:**

*Participants depart throughout the day, departing the hotel at least three hours prior to flight departure time to return to the U.S.*

## **7 – 9 AM: Breakfast**

## **9 – 11 AM: Policy Reflections for Members of Congress**

This time is set aside for Members of Congress to reflect on what they learned during the conference and discuss their views on implications for U.S. policy.

## **11 – 11:15 AM: Break**

### 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars, including John Kotek, Anna Foglesong, Jim Connaughton, Stephen Metruck, Rich Powell, Robin Millican, and Melanie Kenderdine on Members' main takeaways and policy ideas generated throughout the conference.

Name	Depart Sydney	Arrive US
Jim Baird	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 2 arrive Indianapolis at 5 am
Brendan Boyle	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 1 arrive Philadelphia at 11:49 pm
Julia Brownley	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 1 arrive Los Angeles at 2:20 pm
Yadira Caraveo	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 2 arrive Washington, DC at 5:40 am
Shelia Cherfilus	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 2 arrive Washington, DC at 5:40 am
Dan Crenshaw	June 1 at 9:20 am	June 1 arrive Houston at 3:38 pm
Ron Estes	June 1 at 10:20 am	June 1 arrive Wichita at 4:27 pm
John Garamendi	June 1 at 9:30 pm	June 1 arrive San Francisco at 5:50 pm
Andy Harris	June 1 at 9:30 am	June 1 arrive Washington, DC at 6:07 pm
Robin Kelly	June 1 at 5:35 pm – Sydney to LAX flight arrived LAX late, and the next available flight to Chicago was next day so overnight 6/1 in Los Angeles required.	June 2 arrive Chicago at 11:20 am
Zoe Lofgren	June 1 at 9:40 pm	June 1 arrive in San Francisco at 10:15 pm
Raul Ruiz	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 1 arrive Los Angeles at 2:20 pm
Jan Schakowsky	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 1 arrive Chicago at 11:28 pm
Kim Schrier	June 1 at 9:30 pm	June 1 arrive Seattle at 10:07 pm
Pete Sessions	June 1 at 5:35 pm	June 2 arrive in Washington, DC at 7 am
Randy Weber	June 1 at 9:30 pm	June 2 arrive Houston at 5:54 am



**HOUSE APPENDIX**  
Aspen Institute Congressional Program  
Policy Opportunities for U.S. Energy Innovation and Security  
May 25-June 1, 2024

**Question 4: Provide names and titles of all House Members you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited.**

These members are invited due to their subject matter interest and expertise in the geopolitical issues to be discussed at the conference.

Rep. Jim Baird, Committee on Science, Space and Technology; Subcommittee on Energy  
Rep. Brendan Boyle, Committee on Ways and Means  
Rep. Julia Brownley, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Rep. Yadira Caraveo, Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
Rep. Dan Crenshaw, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Ron Estes, Committee on Ways and Means  
Rep. John Garamendi, Committee on Armed Services  
Rep. Andy Harris, Committee on Homeland Security  
Rep. Robin Kelly, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Rep. Raul Ruiz, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Kim Schrier, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Pete Sessions, Committee on Financial Services  
Rep. Randy Weber, Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Question 15-B-1: Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided.):**

The daily cost of meals is \$85. This amount reflects the cost of the daily dinner. The accommodation costs include breakfast. The daily meeting fee includes lunch and snacks. The dinner costs are \$40 over the dinner per diem of \$45 for Sydney and \$43 over the dinner per diem of \$42 in Canberra. Food costs increases are the reason behind these expenses, but it is a cost that is reasonable and necessary.

**Question 18: Total Lodging Expenses per Participant**

The nightly room rate in Sydney is \$319. Participants land in Sydney beginning at 6:05 am on May 27 through 8:10 am. Check in is not available until 3 pm. An early check-in fee was paid to guarantee participants could check-in upon arrival, prepare for meetings on May 27, and for security purposes. On June 1, for the participants departing on the late evening flights, a late check out fee was paid to allow them to have access to their rooms for purposes of security until they depart for the airport to return to the U.S.

On May 30, participants travel in mid-afternoon from Sydney to Canberra, the capitol of Australia, to meet with Australian senior government officials and U.S. Embassy officials. The group overnights in Canberra, returning to Sydney the following afternoon. This 24-hour visit required maintaining the room block space in Sydney, and at the same time, providing a hotel room for one night, May 30, in Canberra for participants. These costs are reflected in the total hotel costs for participants.