

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

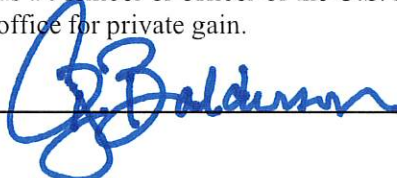
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance 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, 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: William Troy Balderson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: April 12, 2025 Return: April 19, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Columbus, Ohio Destination: Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan Return City: Columbus, Ohio
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: FMC (Former Members of Congress)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):
FMC's Congressional Study Group on Japan allowed Member of Congress the chance to meet, visit, and learn more about the U.S. - Japan alliance through immersion and robust discussion.
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: 4/29/2025

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: FMC (Former Members of Congress)
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

2. Travel Destination(s): Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan

3. Date of Departure: April 12, 2025 Date of Return: April 19, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Troy Balderson

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	\$11,556.14	\$1513.51	\$658.18	\$1,116.14 (Guide, interpreter, meeting rooms, entry tickets, AV, insurance)
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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: Sabine Schleidt Date: April 29, 2025

Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer

Organization: FMC (Former Members of Congress)

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

Address: 1401 K Street NW Ste 901

Telephone: (202) 222-0972 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org

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: William Troy Balderson
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan
4. a. Date of Departure: April 12, 2025 Date of Return: April 19, 2025
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 Congressional Study Group on Japan, Rep. Balderson looks forward to the discussions regarding U.S.-Japan security alliance, energy policy, trade, and other topics.

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: _____ Date: _____

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:

Former Members of Congress (FMC)

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: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

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 addendum

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

6. Date of Departure: See addendum Date of Return: See addendum

7. a. City of departure: See addendum

b. Destination(s): Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan

c. City of return: See addendum

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:
See addendum _____
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: Sprinter Van)
 - 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): ~\$125/day
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: See addendum
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: The Okura Tokyo City: Tokyo Cost Per Night: See addendum
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to Meeting Partners and US Embassy
- Hotel Name: Hotel Sosei MGallery Collection City: Sapporo Cost Per Night: See addendum
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to meeting partners and ease of access
- 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 Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	See Addendum	See Addendum	\$750
For each Accompanying Family Member	See Addendum	See Addendum	\$750


	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	\$1150	Interpreter, Guide, Meeting Rooms
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$1150	Interpreter, Guide, Meeting Rooms

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: 03/07/2025
 Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer
 Organization: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
 Address: 1401 K Street NW, Suite 901
 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org Telephone: 202-222-5047

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

Primary Trip Sponsor Form Addendum

4. This study tour is intended for current Members of the United States Congress; FMC invited Members of the House of Representatives who have previously expressed interest in Japan and U.S.-Japan relations – in particular, security, energy, and trade – and serve on committees relevant to the trip’s issue areas. Please find enclosed a list of all participants.

Participant List:

6. Date of Departure:

- Senator Mazie Hirono and Leighton Kim Oshima : Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Diana DeGette: Friday, April 11
- Rep. Andy Barr and Davis Barr: Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Troy Balderson: Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Tony Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales: Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Darin La Hood and Kristen La Hood: Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Frank Pallone and Sarah Pallone: Saturday, April 12
- Rep. Jill Tokuda and Kyle Michibata: Saturday, April 12

Date of Return:

- Senator Mazie Hirono and Leighton Kim Oshima : Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Diana DeGette: Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Andy Barr and Davis Barr: Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Troy Balderson: Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Tony Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales: Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Darin La Hood and Kristen La Hood: Saturday, April 19
- Rep. Frank Pallone and Sarah Pallone: Thursday, April 24
- Rep. Jill Tokuda and Kyle Michibata: Saturday, April 19

7A.

- Senator Mazie Hirono and Leighton Kim Oshima: Washington, DC (IAD)
- Rep. Diana DeGette: Washington, DC (IAD)
- Rep. Andy Barr and Davis Barr: New York (JFK)
- Rep. Troy Balderson: Columbus, OH (CMB)
- Rep. Tony Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales: San Antonio, TX (SAT)
- Rep. Darin La Hood and Kristen La Hood, Peoria, IL (PIA)
- Rep. Frank Pallone and Sarah Pallone: New York, NY (JFK)
- Rep. Jill Tokuda and Kyle Michibata: Honolulu, HI (HNL)

7C.

- Senator Mazie Hirono and Leighton Kim Oshima: Honolulu, HI (HNL)
- Rep. Diana DeGette: Denver, CO (DEN)
- Rep. Andy Barr and Davis Barr: Lexington, KY (LEX)
- Rep. Troy Balderson: Columbus, OH (CMB)
- Rep. Tony Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales: San Antonio, TX (SAT)
- Rep. Darin La Hood and Kristen La Hood, Peoria, IL (PIA)
- Rep. Frank Pallone and Sarah Pallone: New York, NY (JFK)
- Rep. Jill Tokuda and Kyle Michibata: Honolulu, HI (HNL)

12. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is among the largest and most active parliamentary exchange programs between the U.S. Congress and the legislative branch of other countries. The Study Group creates constant channels of communication and dialogue between American legislators and their

counterparts in the Japanese Diet through regular roundtables in Washington, DC throughout the year in addition to trips such as the 2025 U.S. Congressional Member Study Tour to Japan. It offers both Members of Congress and senior congressional staff a unique educational forum to examine issues including the U.S.-Japan security alliance, energy policy, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and societal issues such as workforce and population change. FMC's Congressional Study Group on Japan is responsible for organizing the program, arranging meetings, and inviting expert speakers to the study tour. FMC is solely responsible for all invitations to and communications with trip participants, as well as the budget for the 2025 U.S. Congressional Member Study Tour to Japan.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPFUSA) awards grant monies to fund the year-round programming of The Congressional Study Group on Japan as a part of their mission of promoting understanding between the U.S. and Japan. SPFUSA staff assists FMC in securing meetings in Tokyo.

15. b. 2) Tokyo is the financial and political hub of Japan, and the delegation will meet with high-level government officials, journalists, and experts on issues ranging from security and regional defense to women's societal status and participation to energy policies. Additionally, through meetings with students and cultural figures, participants will gain a holistic understanding of Japan's rich history, culture and religion.

Sapporo is the capital of Hokkaido, Japan's largest prefecture by land area, and is the 5th most populous city in Japan. The delegation will meet with U.S. officials, local government, and cultural leaders to learn of Hokkaido's importance to the U.S.-Japan relationship and unique culture within the country. Additionally, participants will learn about the indigenous Ainu people and their current situation in modern Japan.

16.

Cost Per Night (The Okura Tokyo): \$300 Double Occupancy, \$265 Single Occupancy

Cost Per Night (The Hotel Sosei MGallery Collection): \$200 Double Occupancy, \$190 Single Occupancy

18.

Total Estimated Transportation Expenses per Participant:

- Senator Mazie Hirono: \$8,705
- Leighton Kim Oshima: \$8,705
- Rep. Diana DeGette: \$12,890
- Rep. Andy Barr: \$11,780
- Davis Barr: \$11,780
- Rep. Troy Balderson: \$11,655
- Rep. Tony Gonzales: \$12,345
- Jessie Gonzales: \$12,345
- Rep. Darin La Hood: \$11,660
- Kristen La Hood: \$11,660
- Rep. Frank Pallone: \$11,580
- Sarah Pallone: \$11,580
- Rep. Jill Tokuda: \$16,150
- Kyle Michibata: \$16,150

Total Estimated Lodging Expenses:

- Senator Mazie Hirono: \$965
- Leighton Kim Oshima: \$965
- Rep. Diana DeGette: \$1,700
- Rep. Andy Barr: \$965
- Davis Barr: \$965

- Rep. Troy Balderson: \$1,700
- Rep. Tony Gonzales: \$965
- Jessie Gonzales: \$965
- Rep. Darin La Hood: \$965
- Kristen La Hood: \$965
- Rep. Frank Pallone: \$965
- Sarah Pallone: \$965
- Rep. Jill Tokuda: \$965
- Kyle Michibata: \$965

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: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
2. Name of your organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
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: 2/28/2025

Name: Satohiro Akimoto Title: President & Chairman

Organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Address: 1819 L Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 296-6694 Email: akimoto@spfusa.org

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

Additional Sponsor Form Addendum: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

4. Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA only receives a grant from the Embassy of Japan to fund the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP). That is the only funding Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA receives from a foreign government, and it is only for this JUMP program. No Embassy of Japan funding is ever put towards the grant for the U.S. Association of the Former Members of Congress.



FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUPS

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org

February 12, 2025

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ) and Former Members of Congress (FMC), it gives us great pleasure to invite you and your spouse to participate in our 11th Annual U.S. Congressional Member Study Tour to Japan. The 2025 Study Tour will take place from **April 12-19**, led by **CSGJ Co-Chairs Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)** and **Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)**, and will visit **Tokyo and Sapporo**.

Japan remains one of the United States' closest and most important allies in the region. With political change sweeping both nations, the alliance faces its biggest test in recent memory. At this critical juncture, our 2025 U.S. Congressional Member Study Tour provides a critical opportunity for U.S. lawmakers, Japanese legislators, and other meeting partners to discuss and reflect on issues relating to:

- International Security (Taiwan, North Korea, U.S.-Japan-South Korean trilateral cooperation, cybersecurity, Indo-Pacific security strategy),
- Economic Security and Trade (supply chain and critical resources security, the future of the labor force, trade, FDI)
- Regional Relations (China, Russia, ASEAN)

Since our inaugural delegation in 2014, The Congressional Study Group on Japan has taken over fifty Members of Congress to Japan. Each group has had the pleasure of meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan. We will continue our tradition of meeting with Cabinet Ministers, municipal governors, and leaders from business and academic communities, as well as non-traditional meeting partners such as university students and leading cultural figures. Please find the itinerary of our most recent delegation (January 2024) enclosed for your reference.

Business-class airfare, lodging, ground transportation, and scheduled meal costs will be paid for by FMC, a congressionally-chartered, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in partnership with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. We have funding for eight Members and a limited number of spouses. Please understand that no congressional staff/assistants are permitted to participate in this trip. While participants are allowed to arrive early or extend their visit at their own expense, they are expected to attend all official meetings/programs throughout the duration of the Study Tour. Please note that participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis for a diverse, bipartisan delegation. This privately-sponsored travel will be reported to the House Ethics Committee and is not part of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MECEA).

LEADERSHIP:

The Hon. Barbara Comstock, *President* | **The Hon. Donna Edwards**, *President-Elect*
The Hon. Dennis Ross, *Vice President* | **The Hon. Loretta Sanchez**, *Vice President*
The Hon. L.F. Payne, *Immediate Past President*

EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Peter Weichlein Esq., *Chief Executive Officer* | **Sabine Schleidt**, *Chief Operating Officer*
Lorraine Harbison, *Program Director* | **Patrick Egenhofer**, *Associate Director, Programs*





FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUPS

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org

It is expected throughout the Study Tour that all participants fully comply with any safety or health precautions deemed necessary or as requested by FMC staff, local authorities, or other program participants. Should a Study Tour during the selected week be deemed inopportune or unfeasible, we will explore other possible dates later in the year.

We hope that you will join us for the continuation of this vital transpacific dialogue. Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Ty Baker, Program Manager for the Congressional Study Groups, at 202-747-5350 or tbaker@usafmc.org. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,

The Hon. Barbara Comstock (R-VA, 2015-2019)
President, FMC

The Hon. Donna Edwards (D-MD, 2008-2017)
President-Elect, FMC

LEADERSHIP:

The Hon. Barbara Comstock, *President* | **The Hon. Donna Edwards**, *President-Elect*
The Hon. Dennis Ross, *Vice President* | **The Hon. Loretta Sanchez**, *Vice President*
The Hon. L.F. Payne, *Immediate Past President*

EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Peter Weichlein Esq., *Chief Executive Officer* | **Sabine Schleidt**, *Chief Operating Officer*
Lorraine Harbison, *Program Director* | **Patrick Egenhofer**, *Associate Director, Programs*



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

2025 Members of Congress Study Tour to Japan

Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan | April 12 – 19, 2025

Participants List

Members of the U.S. Congress

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Leighton Kim Oshima

Senate Co-Chair, The Congressional Study Group on Japan
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) and Davis Barr

House Co-Chair, The Congressional Study Group on Japan
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX) and Jesse Gonzales

2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Sarah Pallone

2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)

House Co-Chair, The Congressional Study Group on Japan
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH)

2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Kristen LaHood

503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI) and Kyle Michibata

1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

Additional Participants

Dr. Satohiro Akimoto

Chairman and President
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
1819 L Street NW, #300
Washington, DC 20036
SAkimoto@spfusa.org

Ms. Sabine Schleidt

Chief Operating Officer
FMC
1401 K Street NW, #901
Washington, DC 20005
SSchleidt@usafmc.org

Ms. Lorraine Harbison

Director of Programs
FMC
1401 K Street NW, #901
Washington, DC 20005
LHarbison@usafmc.org



2025 Member of Congress Study Tour to Japan

Working Agenda

Saturday, April 12th - Saturday, April 19th, 2025 | Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan

Tokyo Hotel:

The Okura Tokyo
2-Chome 10-4 Toranomom
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001

Sapporo Hotel:

Hotel Sosei Sapporo MGallery Collection
Sapporo Factory West Hall, 3 Chome Kita 2 Jo
Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0032

Friday, April 11th

[TRAVEL DAY]

12:15 PM Rep. Diana DeGette departs from Washington (IAD) via NH101

Saturday, April 12th

[TRAVEL DAY]

Departure from U.S., Various Airports

9:35 AM Depart from San Antonio (SAT) via NH6531

- Rep. Tony Gonzales
- Jessie Gonzales

12:15 PM Depart from Washington (IAD) via NH101

- Senator Mazie Hirono
- Leighton Oshima

1:30 PM Depart from New York (JFK) via NH109

- Rep. Frank Pallone
- Sarah Pallone

1:40 PM Depart from Honolulu (HNL) via NH185

- Rep. Jill Tokuda
- Kyle Michibata

2:15 PM Rep. Troy Balderson departs from Columbus (CMB) via UA3493

2:32 PM Depart from Peoria (PIA) via UA5483

- Rep. Darin La Hood
- Kristen La Hood

Arrival to Japan

12:15 PM JST Rep. Diana DeGette arrives at Haneda (HND) via NH101



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Sunday, April 13th

[TRAVEL DAY]

Arrivals to Japan

3:20 PM Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH101

- Sen. Mazie Hirono
- Leighton Oshima

3:25 PM Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH113

- Rep. Tony Gonzales
- Jesse Gonzales

4:55 PM Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH109

- Rep. Frank Pallone
- Sarah Pallone

5:25 PM Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH185

- Kyle Michibata
- Rep. Jill Tokuda

9:15 PM Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH111

- Troy Balderson
- Andy Barr
- Davis Barr
- Darin La Hood
- Kristen La Hood

Evening **Arrival to Hotel**

Evening **Individual Dinner**

Room Service, The Okura Tokyo

**Within 10,000 yen per person.*

Departure from the US

2:00 AM EST Depart from New York (JFK) via NH159

- Rep. Andy Barr
- Davis Barr



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Monday, April 14th in Tokyo

Business Attire

Arrival to Japan

5:00 AM

Arrive at Haneda (HND) via NH159

- Rep. Andy Barr
- Davis Barr

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM Perceptions of the U.S. in Japan

Roundtable breakfast discussion on the way the U.S. is viewed in 2025's Japan with prominent journalists posted in Tokyo, preparing Members for the subject matter of subsequent meetings conducted in the Study Tour.

The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM U.S. Embassy Country Team Briefing

Briefing by Deputy Chief of Mission **Katherine Monahan** and select heads of sections such as Political, Economic, Commerce, Public Affairs, and Consular on the current state of bilateral relationship at the Embassy of the United States in Tokyo.

U.S. Embassy, 1 Chome-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Roundtable with CDP Members

Roundtable discussion with Constitutional Democratic Party President **Yoshihiko Noda** and members of the party on their platform's contrasts to the ruling LDP, plans to build on success in October's elections, and path forward for the U.S.-Japan relationship.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM Roundtable Luncheon on Aging Society and Social Change

Roundtable over lunch with experts on Japan's demographic situation. Japan is headed towards what is called a "super-ageing" society. As the country adjusts to these social and economic realities, the structure of families continues to evolve. Participants will hold a dialogue comparing and contrasting these evolving social attitudes in the U.S. and Japan.

The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM A Free and Open Indo-Pacific

Roundtable discussion with Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self Defense Forces General **Yoshihide Yoshida** on the security environment in the region, opportunities for enhanced U.S.-Japan cooperation, and the importance of fostering third-country allies in addressing threats posed by the PRC and Russia.

Return to Hotel to Change

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Informal Dinner

*Nobu
4 Chome-1-28 1F, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo*



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Tuesday, April 15th in Tokyo

Business Attire

Morning Individual Breakfast at Hotel

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM Roundtable with LDP Foreign Affairs Committee
Roundtable discussion with the Liberal Democratic Party's Foreign Affairs Committee on the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance to the regional security environment and deterrence of territorial aggression in the Indo-Pacific.

1-11-23 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Economy, Trade and Industry
Roundtable discussion with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry **Yoji Muto** on the U.S.-Japan trade relationship, Japan's LNG strategy, and the restarting of nuclear reactors.

1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8901

Depart for Miura

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Base Itinerary Overview and Background Briefing
Briefing en-route to Yokosuka led by FMC staff Lorraine Harbison and Jaret Hildebrand, preparing the delegation for the logistics of the upcoming base visit, and providing background on the origins and recent restructuring of U.S. Forces Japan

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka
Lunch briefing and tour of facilities of the critical U.S. Naval installation, shedding light on the U.S.'s military presence in Japan and strategic importance to the region.

1 Chome-20 Honcho, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 238-0002

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Shipbuilding Site Visit
Visit to a shipbuilding facility in the Tokyo Bay area to discuss the increasing importance of domestic shipbuilding in Japan and the US, the role of LNG tankers in Japan and America's energy security, and avenues for cooperation in the industry moving forward.

TBD

Return to Tokyo

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Informal Dinner

Tofuya Ukai, 4-chome-4-13 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011



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Wednesday, April 16th in Tokyo

Business Attire

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Business Advisory Council Breakfast

Breakfast roundtable discussion with representatives of CSGJ's Business Advisory Council members on topics including supply chains, tariffs, and the investment environment for Japanese companies doing business in the U.S.

The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Transpacific Town Hall

Breakout room-style conversations with students from Waseda University. Participants will field questions about Congress's functioning, U.S. domestic issues, and the U.S.'s role in the Indo-Pacific, as well as hear the students' unfiltered perspective on issues of society, security, and politics.

1-Chōme-104 Totsukamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-8050

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch with Indo-Pacific Allies

Roundtable discussion over lunch with Ambassadors of allied nations to Japan including the Philippines, Singapore, and South Korea, on how each of their respective nations work with Japan, and opportunities for joint engagement on issues affecting the region.

The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM Securing Japan and the Indo-Pacific

Roundtable discussion with Minister of Defense **Gen Nakatani** on the U.S.-Japan security alliance and its importance to the Indo-Pacific as the cornerstone of security and prosperity in the region.

5-1 Ichigayabonmurachō, Shinjuku City, Tokyo 162-8801

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM The U.S.-Japan Relationship

Roundtable discussion with Minister of Foreign Affairs **Takeshi Iwaya** on deepening U.S.-Japan bilateral ties, and how the United States and Japan can work together to counter ongoing threats in the Indo-Pacific and around the world.

2-chōme-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda City, Tokyo 100-8919

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Courtesy Call with Prime Minister Ishiba

Courtesy call with Japan's Prime Minister, **H.E. Shiegru Ishiba**, and roundtable discussion on his administration's priorities, especially with respect to the U.S.-Japan relationship.

2 Chome-3-1 Nagatachō, Chiyoda City, Tokyo 100-0014

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM [Executive Time]

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Informal Dinner

Premium Sake Pub Gashue



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Thursday, April 17th in Tokyo/Sapporo **[Travel Day] Business Attire**

6:45 AM Check out, Depart for Haneda Airport

8:00 AM Depart Tokyo Haneda (HND) for Sapporo (CTS) – NH53

9:30 AM Arrive in Sapporo (CTS)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **JASDF Chitose Air Base**

Briefing and tour of facilities to understand how the Japan Air Self Defense Forces' operations in Hokkaido work to secure Japan's maritime borders with Russia, and the installations role in the broader framework of the US-Japan security alliance.

Heiwa, Chitose, Hokkaido 066-8510

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM **Hokkaido Valley**

Roundtable discussion over lunch on start-up Rapidus, which has received investment from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, and a wide consortium of Japanese and American businesses, and Hokkaido as the host of Japan's next generation of cutting-edge semiconductor manufacturers. Following, a tour of Rapidus's newly constructed 2 nm semiconductor fab.

TBA

Check in to Hotel

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Sapporo Beer Museum**

Guided tour of the historic brewery, which dates back to the colonial days of Hokkaido. The tour will provide context on how Japanese companies have built industries in the mold of Western companies while developing novel strategies for efficiency and quality.

9-1-1 Kita 7-Jo Higashi, Higashi-ku, Sapporo 065-0007

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Dinner Discussion with Sapporo Consul General**

Roundtable dinner discussion with Consul General **Mark Wuebbels** on the issues affecting Hokkaido, and opportunities to bolster the US-Japan bilateral relationship's impact at deeper levels.

TBD



Friday, April 18th in Sapporo

Business Attire

Morning **Breakfast at Hotel**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Courtesy Call with Prefectural Governor Suzuki**

Naomichi Suzuki was first elected Governor of Hokkaido in 2019 and won reelection to his second term in 2023. Through the course of his governorship, he has navigated the prefecture through the COVID-19 pandemic and economic coercion such as China's ban on Japanese seafood products, which was particularly harmful to Hokkaido. He was previously Mayor of Yubari, Hokkaido, and was the youngest mayor to be elected in Japanese history.

Kita 3-jo, Nishi 6-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-8588

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies**

The CAIS is Japan's only research center specializing in studies on Ainu and other indigenous peoples, it has provided expert advice based on its own research findings to the national government for the comprehensive promotion of Ainu policy since the Diet's June 2008 adoption of the Resolution to Recognize the Ainu as an Indigenous People.

5 Chome Kita 8 Jonishi, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0808

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM **All Politics are Local**

Roundtable lunch discussion with mayors of municipalities in the central Hokkaido region on issues affecting residents of their communities, and ties with the U.S.

Restaurant MINAMI, Akarenga Terrace 4F, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Hokkaido Jingu**

Guided tour of the historic site led by the *kannushi*, or head priest. Constructed in 1869 by the order of the emperor, Hokkaido Jingu was founded to offer spiritual support to Hokkaido's early colonists. In June, the shrine hosts the largest festival in Hokkaido. Participants will learn of how the unique syncretic nature of religiosity in Japan continues to inform the life and mindset of Japanese citizens and politicians.

Miyagaoka 474, Chuo-ku, Sapporo

3:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Executive Time in Sapporo**

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Closing Dinner**

A debriefing dinner discussion on the lessons learned during the duration of the delegation's travel and reflection on various dimensions of the U.S. – Japan relationship led by FMC staff.

TBD



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Saturday, April 19th in Sapporo **[Travel Day]** *Casual Attire*

Morning **Breakfast on own at Hotel**

Morning – Evening **Group Departs**

7:30 AM **Departure from Sapporo via NH50**

- Troy Balderson
- Andy Barr
- Davis Barr
- Tony Gonzales
- Jesse Gonzales
- Darin La Hood
- Kristen La Hood
- Frank Pallone
- Sarah Pallone

2:30 PM **Departure from Sapporo via NH66**

- Mazie Hirono
- Leighton Oshima

6:30 PM **Departure from Sapporo via NH76**

- Kyle Michibata
- Jill Tokuda

7:30 PM **Diana DeGette departs Sapporo via NH78**

Arrivals

1:24 PM EDT **Andy Barr and Davis Barr arrive in Lexington via UA4502**

1:25 PM EDT **Troy Balderson arrives in Columbus via NH 7412**

1:19 PM CDT **Tony Gonzales and Jesse Gonzales arrive in San Antonio via NH6530**

1:57 PM CDT **Darin La Hood and Kristen La Hood arrive in Peoria via UA5362**

8:30 AM HST **Mazie Hirono and Leighton Oshima arrive in Honolulu via NH184**

10:20 AM HST **Jill Tokuda and Kyle Michibata arrive in Honolulu via NH186**

10:44 PM MDT **Diana DeGette arrives in Denver via UA776**



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Thursday, April 24th

10:50 AM Frank and Sarah Pallone depart Tokyo for New York (JFK) via NH110

11:00 AM EDT Frank and Sarah Pallone arrive in New York (JFK) via NH110

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



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U.S. House of Representatives

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March 27, 2025

The Honorable Troy Balderson
U.S. House of Representatives
2429 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 Japan,¹ scheduled for April 12 to 19, 2025, sponsored by Former Members of Congress and Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

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.

¹ 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,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc