

# 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: Congressman Raul Ruiz
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 10, 2025 Return: August 16, 2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Palm Springs, CA Destination: Fairbanks AK, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK Return City: Los Angeles, CA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Lands Project
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see the attached itinerary. Fact finding trip to experience and learn firsthand about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and meet with local residents that rely on these lands.

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: 08/25/2025

# 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: American Lands Project

2. Travel Destination(s): Fairbanks, AK; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK

3. Date of Departure: August 10, 2025 Date of Return: August 16, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Congressman Raul Ruiz

*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                   | \$7,717.20 (\$1267.93 travel to/from FAI, \$6,397.50 Air taxi, \$48.91 ground transport) | \$658.00 (\$254/night for two nights in Fairbanks, \$150 total for backcountry tent rental) | \$426.86            | \$2,908.33 (Backcountry guide and fees)                       |
| 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:  Date: 08/22/2025

Name: Thomas D. Campion Title: Board President

Organization: American Lands Project

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

Address: 1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 406, Seattle, WA 98101

Telephone: 720-951-4327 Email: Tom@americanlandsproject.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.



Congressional Participants

- Congressman Gabriel Vasquez
- Congressman Raul Ruiz

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

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

Name of Traveler: Raul Ruiz

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

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

Signature: 

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

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

Office Address: 2342 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-5330

Email Address of Contact Person: abby.sullivan@mail.house.gov

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

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

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

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

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Raul Ruiz
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Lands Project
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Fairbanks, AK and Arctic National Wildlife Project, AK
4. a. Date of Departure: 08/10/2025 Date of Return: 08/16/2025  
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.**  
The purpose of this trip is to learn more about Alaska Native communities, natural systems, economic opportunities, energy and climate issues, and the history and land use policy of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Rep. Ruiz's district similarly has many Native communities, and energy and climate issues.
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: 07/30/2025

# 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:

American Lands Project

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives Gabriel Vasquez and Dr. Raul Ruiz; due to their work on natural resource, public lands, and energy issues related to the Arctic.

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

6. Date of Departure: August 10, 2025 Date of Return: August 16, 2025

7. a. City of departure: El Paso, TX (Vasquez); Palm Springs, CA (Ruiz)

b. Destination(s): Fairbanks, AK; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK

c. City of return: El Paso, TX (Vasquez); Palm Springs, CA (Ruiz)

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:

American Lands Project seeks to inform discussions regarding important public lands in our nation, in part through facilitating fact-finding travel centered around place-based education. American Lands Project has developed the agenda of this trip and has organized all invitations to congressional guests.

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: Air taxi to access remote areas of Alaska)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

The flights in and out of the Arctic will be via air taxi, which is the only way to access the remote locations being visited.

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): Approx. \$60/day for meals, including backcountry meals supplied by guide and one meal in Fairbanks, AK.

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Opportunity to experience and learn first-hand about remote Arctic landscapes and meet with local residents who rely on these lands.

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

Hotel Name: La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport City: Fairbanks Cost Per Night: \$254

Reason(s) for Selecting: Room availability, reasonable cost in line with government rate, basic room selected.

Hotel Name: Basecamp/Tent in Arctic Refuge City: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Cost Per Night: \$30

Reason(s) for Selecting: Individual backcountry tents are the only option to stay in this remote location; there are no hotels in the vicinity.

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<br><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   | \$7581.13 total - Vasquez (\$1,105.06 travel to/from Fairbanks ); \$7744.00 total - Ruiz (\$1,267.93 travel to/from Fairbanks) + (\$6,315 Air Taxi flights, \$161.07 ground transportation) | \$658.00 total (\$254/night for 2 nights hotel in Fairbanks, \$150 for tent rental in the Arctic Refuge) | \$415 total (\$40 for food in Fairbanks, \$375 for backcountry meals provided by guide) |
| For each Accompanying Family Member   | same (\$7581.13 - Nikki Santos)<br>same (\$7744.00 - Robbin Ruiz)   | n/a - Nikki Santos<br>same - (\$658.00 total - Robbin Ruiz)  | same (\$415)  |


|                                       | <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 | \$2,908.33                                     | Backcountry guide and fees   |
| For each Accompanying Family Member   | same   | same   |

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: 7/10/2025  
DC48BC6CB330465...  
 Name: Thomas D. Campion Title: Board President  
 Organization: American Lands Project  
 Address: 1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 406, Seattle, WA 98101  
 Email: Tom@americanlandsproject.org Telephone: (720) 951-4327

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

## American Lands Project

### ***Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2025 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary***

#### **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

- Travel from Washington DC or home district to Fairbanks, AK
  - Rep. Gabriel Vasquez Flight
    - **7:00 a.m.** Depart ELP, United #724, **8:53 a.m.** arrive DEN
    - **4:25 p.m.** Depart DEN, United #1759, **8:01 p.m.** arrive FAI
  - Rep. Raul Ruiz Flight
    - **7:44 a.m.** Depart PSP, Alaska #3284, **10:40 a.m.** arrive SEA
    - **12:00 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #106, **2:53 p.m.** arrive FAI
- **3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Ground transportation for Rep. Ruiz from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Check-in to Hotel
- **5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Independent, non-sponsored dinner (Official programming begins Monday, August 11th)
- **8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Ground transportation for Rep. Gabriel Vasquez from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK

#### **Monday, August 11, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler (Biologist/Board Member, American Lands Project), Jason Paulsen (Board Member, American Lands Project), Jeffrey Gillespie (Arctic Treks Guide).*

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK
  - **7:00 a.m.** Ground transportation to airport
  - **8:00\* a.m.** Depart FAI, Everts Air, **10:00\* a.m.** Arrive at Kavik River Camp landing strip and staging area outside of Arctic Refuge (location dependent on weather and conditions) to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
  - **10:30\* a.m.** Depart staging area, Coyote Air, **11:30\* a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp location.
- **12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Camp orientation by Arctic Treks guide to review location and safety, and additional context of the trip and the group's location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge).

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of Alaska's North Slope to become oriented with respect to the tribal, state and federal lands, and land management designations in the Alaskan Arctic, and their relation to conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses.
- **2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, it was expanded in 1980 to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations, and how these changes have affected management over time.
- **3:30 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species including Musk Oxen which were observed on the hike. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how entities such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **6:00 p.m – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Review the geologic and ecological differences across the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), and State of Alaska land, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

## **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic and the history of development in the region. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion will also cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, the 2017 Tax Act and subsequent mandated lease sales, including those expected to be adopted during the 2025 Budget Reconciliation process, and offshore drilling in state and federal waters. This will help guests better understand Alaska's fossil fuel resources and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.
- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed “Alaska Native Corporations,” tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.

- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests will learn about the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the Arctic Refuge and view permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, discuss oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner

### **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Alaskan Arctic, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in decisions around federal land management and development.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities. Review how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes, and how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to address this, including its investments in a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities which are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven impacts.
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

consumption; and for customary trade.”

- **1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Break down camp.
- **2:00\* p.m. - 3:30\* p.m.** Travel from the first basecamp location to a second basecamp location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge via air-taxi flight from Coyote Air. Discussion en route with Dirk Nickisch, pilot/owner of Coyote Air regarding recent weather events, wildfire impacts upon aviation, recreational uses of the Arctic Refuge, and changes observed over the past 20 years, which are necessitating changes in business operations.
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Set-up camp at second basecamp location, within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and break time to get oriented in the new landscape.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Overview of the North Slope Borough and its villages. Most of the Borough’s approximately 11,000 permanent residents live in eight communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) serves as the Borough seat of government. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.

#### **Thursday, August 14, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Review the background and history of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), including initial designation in 1923 as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy, Navy management of the land until the area was conveyed to the Department of the Interior in 1976 in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management from that conveyance until present day. Discuss the five Special Areas designated within the 23-million-acre landscape and the ecological importance of each as important habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, birds, and caribou herds that have sustained the Native people of Alaska’s North Slope for over 10,000 years. Also review the recent announcements that the Department of the Interior has made regarding the NPR-A, including the development of recently approved oil and gas projects such as the Willow Project, and the administration’s recent announcements around the Integrated Activity Plan and regulatory framework for the NPR-A.
- **10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discussion of the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation’s carbon management. Alaska contains one third the country’s federally managed lands, but stores an even larger share of terrestrial ecosystem carbon stocks-- 62% of all carbon contained in the soils and terrestrial ecosystems of federally managed land is held in Alaska.
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review estimates on the quantity of methane stored in permafrost in the Arctic along with recent scientific studies analyzing the

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

climate inputs associated with a warming Arctic. Arctic landscapes are a major reservoir of this greenhouse gas, and rising temperatures have been accelerating release from existing stores in the permafrost. View physical examples near basecamp of the slumping of surface soils due to the melting of permafrost and observe changes in the local plant community due to warming in the Arctic.

- **12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the use of the Arctic Refuge by migratory birds, caribou, polar bear and other wildlife.
- **2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Break
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Overview of the major caribou herds of the North Slope located outside the Arctic Refuge, including current population data and trends, and management history with a focus on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its associated Working Group. Overview of the role of the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters, and conservationists, with agency staff biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of what until recent years has been Alaska’s largest caribou herd, and also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.

#### **Friday, August 15, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests will learn about the history of the \$8 billion Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, its construction, role in North Slope development, and its role in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment to the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Break down camp
- **12:00\* p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air,

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **1:00\* p.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, an Alaska Native village (Gwich'in) at the southern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Village also functions as a staging point to access or depart the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
  - During the flight and waiting time, discuss international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview of the United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of changing sea ice conditions. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Working lunch with the Arctic Village Councilmember and Tribal Administrator to discuss their priorities and connections to the Arctic Refuge.
- **2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Tour of Arctic Village. Learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Arctic Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years, and learn about the Village, its people, and their connections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for spiritual, cultural, and subsistence practices.
  - Additional Attendees:
    - Tiffany Yatlin, Tribal Administrator
    - Hilda Johnson, Arctic Village Councilmember
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Return to the Arctic Village landing strip and review the main topics of the trip. Answer any additional questions. Discussion with Galen Gilbert, First Chief of the Arctic Village Council.
- Return to Fairbanks, AK.
  - **6:00\* p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Everts Air, **8:00\* p.m.** Arrive FAI
  - **8:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
  - Post-trip review, questions and discussion. Trip wrap-up and planning for early morning travel logistics.

#### **Saturday, August 16, 2025**

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to DC or home district
  - Rep. Gabriel Vasquez
    - **5:52 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #210. **10:40 a.m.** arrive SEA.
    - **2:13 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #2003. **6:39 p.m.** arrive ELP.
  - Rep. Raul Ruiz
    - **10:05 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #234. **2:43 p.m.** arrive SEA.
    - **5:59 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #1048. **8:50 p.m.** arrive LAX.

*(\* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

## American Lands Project

### ***Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2025 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary***

#### **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

- Travel from Washington DC or home district to Fairbanks, AK
  - Rep. Gabriel Vasquez Flight
    - **7:00 a.m.** Depart ELP, United #724, **8:53 a.m.** arrive DEN
    - **4:25 p.m.** Depart DEN, United #1759, **8:01 p.m.** arrive FAI
  - Rep. Raul Ruiz Flight
    - **7:44 a.m.** Depart PSP, Alaska #3284, **10:40 a.m.** arrive SEA
    - **12:00 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #106, **2:53 p.m.** arrive FAI
- **3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Ground transportation for Rep. Ruiz from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Check-in to Hotel
- **5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Independent, non-sponsored dinner (Official programming begins Monday, August 11th)
- **8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Ground transportation for Rep. Gabriel Vasquez from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK

#### **Monday, August 11, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler (Biologist/Board Member, American Lands Project), Jason Paulsen (Board Member, American Lands Project), Jeffrey Gillespie (Arctic Treks Guide).*

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK
  - **7:00 a.m.** Ground transportation to airport
  - **8:00\* a.m.** Depart FAI, Everts Air, **10:00\* a.m.** Arrive at Kavik River Camp landing strip and staging area outside of Arctic Refuge (location dependent on weather and conditions) to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
  - **10:30\* a.m.** Depart staging area, Coyote Air, **11:30\* a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp location.
- **12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Camp orientation by Arctic Treks guide to review location and safety, and additional context of the trip and the group's location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge).

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- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of Alaska's North Slope to become oriented with respect to the tribal, state and federal lands, and land management designations in the Alaskan Arctic, and their relation to conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses.
- **2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, it was expanded in 1980 to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations, and how these changes have affected management over time.
- **3:30 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species including Musk Oxen which were observed on the hike. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how entities such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **6:00 p.m – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Review the geologic and ecological differences across the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), and State of Alaska land, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

## **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic and the history of development in the region. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion will also cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, the 2017 Tax Act and subsequent mandated lease sales, including those expected to be adopted during the 2025 Budget Reconciliation process, and offshore drilling in state and federal waters. This will help guests better understand Alaska's fossil fuel resources and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.
- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated

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the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed “Alaska Native Corporations,” tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.

- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests will learn about the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the Arctic Refuge and view permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, discuss oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner

### **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Alaskan Arctic, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in decisions around federal land management and development.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities. Review how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes, and how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to address this, including its investments in a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities which are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven impacts.
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family

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consumption; and for customary trade.”

- **1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Break down camp.
- **2:00\* p.m. - 3:30\* p.m.** Travel from the first basecamp location to a second basecamp location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge via air-taxi flight from Coyote Air. Discussion en route with Dirk Nickisch, pilot/owner of Coyote Air regarding recent weather events, wildfire impacts upon aviation, recreational uses of the Arctic Refuge, and changes observed over the past 20 years, which are necessitating changes in business operations.
- **3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Set-up camp at second basecamp location, within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and break time to get oriented in the new landscape.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Overview of the North Slope Borough and its villages. Most of the Borough’s approximately 11,000 permanent residents live in eight communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) serves as the Borough seat of government. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.

#### **Thursday, August 14, 2025**

*Attendees: Representative Gabe Vasquez, Representative Raul Ruiz, David Shreffler, Jason Paulsen, Jeffrey Gillespie.*

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Review the background and history of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), including initial designation in 1923 as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy, Navy management of the land until the area was conveyed to the Department of the Interior in 1976 in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management from that conveyance until present day. Discuss the five Special Areas designated within the 23-million-acre landscape and the ecological importance of each as important habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, birds, and caribou herds that have sustained the Native people of Alaska’s North Slope for over 10,000 years. Also review the recent announcements that the Department of the Interior has made regarding the NPR-A, including the development of recently approved oil and gas projects such as the Willow Project, and the administration’s recent announcements around the Integrated Activity Plan and regulatory framework for the NPR-A.
- **10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discussion of the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation’s carbon management. Alaska contains one third the country’s federally managed lands, but stores an even larger share of terrestrial ecosystem carbon stocks-- 62% of all carbon contained in the soils and terrestrial ecosystems of federally managed land is held in Alaska.
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review estimates on the quantity of methane stored in permafrost in the Arctic along with recent scientific studies analyzing the

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climate inputs associated with a warming Arctic. Arctic landscapes are a major reservoir of this greenhouse gas, and rising temperatures have been accelerating release from existing stores in the permafrost. View physical examples near basecamp of the slumping of surface soils due to the melting of permafrost and observe changes in the local plant community due to warming in the Arctic.

- **12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the use of the Arctic Refuge by migratory birds, caribou, polar bear and other wildlife.
- **2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Break
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Overview of the major caribou herds of the North Slope located outside the Arctic Refuge, including current population data and trends, and management history with a focus on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its associated Working Group. Overview of the role of the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters, and conservationists, with agency staff biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of what until recent years has been Alaska’s largest caribou herd, and also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.

#### **Friday, August 15, 2025**

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- **12:00\* p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air,

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- **1:00\* p.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, an Alaska Native village (Gwich'in) at the southern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Village also functions as a staging point to access or depart the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
  - During the flight and waiting time, discuss international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview of the United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of changing sea ice conditions. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Working lunch with the Arctic Village Councilmember and Tribal Administrator to discuss their priorities and connections to the Arctic Refuge.
- **2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Tour of Arctic Village. Learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Arctic Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years, and learn about the Village, its people, and their connections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for spiritual, cultural, and subsistence practices.
  - Additional Attendees:
    - Tiffany Yatlin, Tribal Administrator
    - Hilda Johnson, Arctic Village Councilmember
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Return to the Arctic Village landing strip and review the main topics of the trip. Answer any additional questions. Discussion with Galen Gilbert, First Chief of the Arctic Village Council.
- Return to Fairbanks, AK.
  - **6:00\* p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Everts Air, **8:00\* p.m.** Arrive FAI
  - **8:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
  - Post-trip review, questions and discussion. Trip wrap-up and planning for early morning travel logistics.

#### **Saturday, August 16, 2025**

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to DC or home district
  - Rep. Gabriel Vasquez
    - **5:52 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #210. **10:40 a.m.** arrive SEA.
    - **2:13 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #2003. **6:39 p.m.** arrive ELP.
  - Rep. Raul Ruiz
    - **10:05 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #234. **2:43 p.m.** arrive SEA.
    - **5:59 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #1048. **8:50 p.m.** arrive LAX.

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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



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs  
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 6, 2025

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 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 Fairbanks, Alaska, scheduled for August 10 to 16, 2025, sponsored by American Lands Project.

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.

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:eme



Congressman Raul Ruiz  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz,

The American Lands Project (ALP) appreciates your interest in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge). The 19.6 million-acre Arctic Refuge is an exceptional and unique landscape. The Iñupiat and Gwich'in people have been stewards of this land from time immemorial, and both groups still depend heavily on the region's subsistence resources. The Arctic Refuge provides critical habitat to polar bears, caribou, musk ox, and hundreds of species of migratory birds.

Land use policy for the Arctic Refuge has varied significantly for many decades. In January 2015, the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced its revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge that recommended a Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain area. Later in 2017, legislation was passed that instead opened the Coastal Plain to oil and gas development, and a lease sale was completed in January 2021 with a second mandated lease sale completed in December of 2024. Congress recently passed legislation as part of the Budget Reconciliation package that mandates four additional lease sales in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain over the next 10 years.

We believe a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would provide you a valuable opportunity to see and experience first-hand this remote arctic landscape and better understand the dynamic human and natural systems at play in this area.

We would like to invite you and a family member to join ALP for a trip to the Arctic Refuge from August 10th to 16th, 2025 (On the ground in the Arctic Refuge from August 11th – August 15th). The trip will be fully sponsored by ALP, including all travel, lodging, and meals (starting with breakfast on August 11th). Attached is an itinerary for the trip, which includes opportunities to experience some of the most remote country in the United States and learn about Alaska Native communities, natural systems, economic opportunities, energy and climate issues, and the history and land use policy of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We hope that you will consider joining us for this trip to the Arctic Refuge and would be happy to connect by phone or video conference with you or any of your staff to provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalie Smink  
Education & Trips Coordinator