

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM 17 SEP 14 AM 9:51

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, 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: Cindy M. Buhl
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 8/25/17 Return: 8/29/17
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ or None
4. Departure city: Washington, DC Destination: Colombia Return city: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America
6. Describe meetings and events attended: Local communities, human rights NGOs, ex-combatants and Colombian policy experts; US & Colombian public officials
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 Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; **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 that statement is true by checking box):
 b. If not, explain: _____

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

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: Cindy M. Buhl DATE: 9/13/17

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: James P. McGovern DATE: 9/13/17

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: [Signature]

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. *A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 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 for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America

2. Travel Destination(s): Cauca and Bogotá, Colombia

3. Date of Departure: August 25, 2017 Date of Return: August 29, 2017

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Jim McGovern and Cindy Buhl
(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 response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$1,146.80	\$572.22	\$122.62	\$78.53: travel for rural community leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Relative				

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: 

Name: Adam Isacson Title: Senior Associate

Organization: Washington Office on Latin America

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: 1666 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 400
Washington DC 20009

Telephone number: (202) 797-2171

Email Address: aisacson@wola.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.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Cindy M. Buhl
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
3. Travel destination(s): Colombia: Cali, Santander de Quilichao & Bogota
4. a. Date of departure 8/25/17 Date of return: 8/29/17
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
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 Legislative Director & Foreign Policy LA, I've monitored
US-Colombia policy for 17 years, in particular issues related to human
rights, development, drug policy and the peace process.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

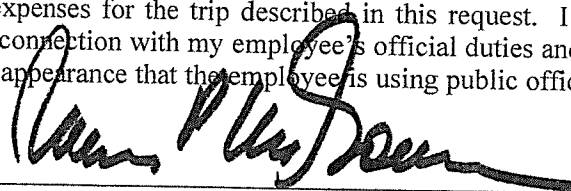
10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

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.

Date: 7/26/17



Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

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

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

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America

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

3. Check only one: I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds *or*.
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

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):
Rep. Jim McGovern, for his longtime interest in promoting human rights in Latin America and peace in Colombia.
Cindy Buhl, Rep. McGovern's legislative director, for the same reasons.

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

6. Date of departure: August 25, 2017 Date of return: August 29, 2017

7. a. City of departure: Washington
b. Destination(s): Cali, Santander de Quilichao, and Bogotá, Colombia
c. City of return: Washington

8. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - 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 one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - 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 "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the 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 one:

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): or
b. N/A – 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:

~~The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) promotes human rights and peaceful conflict resolution in the western hemisphere. Colombia is in a crucial moment as it begins to implement a peace accord ending a 52-year-old internal armed conflict.
WOLA is entirely responsible for organizing and conducting this visit to a zone of Colombia where post-conflict challenges are stark. We will arrange air and ground travel, lodging, and all meetings on the agenda. (Local human rights groups will assist, pro bono, in arranging some meetings.)~~

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

- 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): _____
\$40 per person

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
There is no event, just a series of meetings. We will visit the capital to meet with officials and experts, and travel to Cauca, a region that faces challenges of security, organized crime, drug production, human rights, and indigenous rights.

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

Hotel name: NH Cali Royal City: Cali Cost per night: \$75

Reason(s) for selecting: Security, proximity to airport

Hotel name: Hotel Tierra de Oro City: Santander de Quilichao Cost per night: \$20

Reason(s) for selecting: Security, few options in small city

Hotel name: Artisan Marriott City: Bogotá Cost per night: \$185

Reason(s) for selecting: Security, proximity to meetings

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 box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1,200	\$600	\$200
For each accompanying relative			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$100	Travel cost for rural-dwellers who come to meet with us in Cauca
For each accompanying relative		


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

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

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

Signature: 
 Name: Adam Isacson
 Title: Senior Associate for Defense Oversight
 Organization: Washington Office on Latin America
 Address: 1666 Connecticut Ave NW
 Telephone number: (202) 797-2171
 Email address: aisacson@wola.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Chairwoman
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Ranking Member



Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Kenny Marchant, Texas
Leonard Lance, New Jersey

Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Jared Polis, Colorado
Anthony Brown, Maryland
Steve Cohen, Tennessee

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 15, 2017

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Donna Herbert
Director of Administration

Megan Savage
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to
the Chairwoman*

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

Ms. Cynthia M. Buhl
Office of the Honorable James P. McGovern
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Buhl:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Colombia,¹ scheduled for August 25 to 29, 2017, sponsored by the Washington Office of Latin America.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 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 employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$390] 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 filed with the Committee, and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ We note that the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning concerning travel to Colombia, available at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/colombia-travel-warning.html>. You may wish to contact the State Department regarding the safety of your proposed trip.

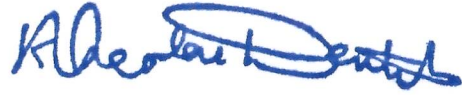
Ms. Cynthia M. Buhl
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If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks
Chairwoman



Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:re

Notional Itinerary: Visit of Rep. Jim McGovern to Colombia, August 25-29, 2017

Organized by the Washington Office on Latin America

Travelers:

- Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts)
- Cindy Buhl, Legislative Director, office of Rep. McGovern
- Adam Isacson, Senior Associate for Defense Oversight, Washington Office on Latin America
- Sebastian Bernal, Program Assistant, Washington Office on Latin America
- (Unconfirmed: Matt Clausen, Executive Director, Washington Office on Latin America)

Friday, August 25: Travel to Cali

Likely flights: American 324 DCA-Miami (1:50PM-4:39PM); American 921 Miami-Cali (5:35PM-8:27PM); \$1,024 / person roundtrip

9:00 PM: Ground transportation to Hotel NH Cali Royal (1 hour)

10:00 PM: Check in to Hotel NH Cali Royal

Saturday, August 26: Cauca region

6:30 AM: Ground transportation to Santander de Quilichao (1 hour)

7:30 AM: Check in and leave bags at Hotel Tierra de Oro, Santander de Quilichao

8:00 AM-8:00 PM: Itinerary in Cauca region

- Travel to guerrilla disarmament zone in Buenos Aires or Caldono
- Meet with local field office of UN Monitoring and Verification Mission
- Meet with farmers participating in coca substitution program
- Meet with Feliciano Valencia and other local indigenous leaders

Sunday, August 27: Cauca region, travel to Bogotá, Bogotá

- Breakfast with leaders of local political movement whose members are under threat

10:30AM: Ground transportation to Cali airport (1 hour 30 minutes)

12:00 PM: Arrive at airport; likely flight: Avianca 8420 Cali-Bogotá (1:11PM-2:12PM); \$75 / person

Ground transportation to Hotel Artisan Marriott (30 minutes)

3:00 PM Check in to Hotel Artisan Marriott

- Coffee with Bogotá-based authors/columnists
- Dinner at hotel with Bogotá-based think-tank conflict experts

Monday, August 28: Bogotá

Meetings will be sought with:

- President Juan Manuel Santos (or his delegate)
- U.S. embassy
- UN Monitoring and Verification Mission
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights field office
- International Committee of the Red Cross

- Former chief government negotiator Humberto de la Calle
- Colombian journalists who cover peace accord implementation
- Ethnic Commission (Afro-Colombian and indigenous leaders)

Tuesday, August 29: Return to Washington

4:30 AM: Ground transportation to Bogotá airport (30 minutes)

Likely flights: American 1130 Bogotá-Miami (7:00AM-12:00PM); American 238 Miami-DCA (2:07PM-4:44PM); \$1,024 / person roundtrip