

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

18 MAR -6 PM 1:55

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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: Michael Edwards
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ *or* None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 2/21/2018 Return: 2/23/2018
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ *or* None
4. Departure city: Washington Destination: Palm Beach Return city: Washington
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): South Florida Agricultural Foundation
6. Describe meetings and events attended: met with local producers, farmers, and other stakeholders regarding South Florida's agricultural commodities and their work with the federal government
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: *Michael Edwards* DATE: 3/5/2018

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: Rep. Ted Poe DATE: 3/5/2018

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): South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

2. Travel Destination(s): West Palm Beach & Clewiston, Palm Beach & Hendry Counties, Florida
3. Date of Departure: Feb. 21, 2018 Date of Return: Feb. 23, 2018
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Michael Edwards
(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	\$272.09	338.00	146.40	Reimb. \$14.48 for travel to airport
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: *Ardis Hammock*

Name: Ardis Hammock Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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

Address: 224 Datura Street, Suite 1114
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Telephone number: 561-315-0481

Email Address: Contact: Cheryl@soflagfoundation.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

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. *Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392, sent or delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth, or e-mailed to 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: Michael S. Edwards

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: Rep. Ted Poe (TX-2)

Office address: 2132 Rayburn HOB

Telephone number: 202-225-6565

Email address of contact person: michael.edwards@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:

Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)
Travel email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Michael S. Edwards
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): South Florida Agricultural Foundation
3. Travel destination(s): West Palm Beach, Clewiston, and Belle Glade, Florida
4. a. Date of departure 2/21/2018 Date of return: 2/23/2018
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 Senior LA for Rep. Ted Poe, I handle a variety of issues including agricultural and trade. This trip will help me learn more about both of these issues.
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: 1/16/2018



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): _____
South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
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):
See attached list
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: Wed., February 21, 2018 Date of return: Friday, February 23, 2018
7. a. City of departure: Washington Reagan Airport, Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): West Palm Beach, Clewiston and Belle Glade, FL
c. City of return: Washington, DC
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 South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc. is the sole sponsor of this congressional staffers trip. The mission of the South Florida Agricultural Foundation is to provide educational and stewardship

opportunities within the South Florida agricultural industry, including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, celery, rice and other local crops. Each stop on the trip represents an important part of food

production in the area, which ranks in the top 10 in the nation for agricultural revenue.

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

a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: Airboat)

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): _____
Wed. lunch/dinner \$44.25, Thurs. brkfast/lunch/dinner \$79.00, Fri. brkfast/lunch \$20.00

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
To provide first hand knowledge and experience of the inner workings of the South Florida agricultural industry.

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

Hotel name: Roland Martin Marina Hotel City: Clewiston, FL Cost per night: 99.00

Reason(s) for selecting: Located in the heart of the Glades area farms on the western part of the tour route

Hotel name: West Palm Beach Marriott City: West Palm Bch, FL Cost per night: 239.00

Reason(s) for selecting: Located near the farms and the airport which is at the eastern end of the tour route

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 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	\$318.10	\$338.00	\$143.25
For each accompanying relative			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (<i>e.g.</i> , taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee		
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: Ardis Hammock

Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

Address: 224 Datura St., Ste. 1114, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Telephone number: 561-315-0481

Email address: Questions contact: Cheryl@SoFLAgFoundation.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

Kenny Marchant, Texas
Leonard Lance, New Jersey
Mimi Walters, California
John Ratcliffe, Texas

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

February 12, 2018

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

Mr. Michael Edwards
Office of the Honorable Ted Poe
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Clewiston and West Palm Beach, Florida, scheduled for February 21 to 23, 2018, sponsored by South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

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.

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:adw

South Florida Agricultural Foundation
ITINERARY
2018 Congressional Staff Tour
Feb. 21-23, 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

6:59 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #527
9:40 AM	Arrive West Palm Beach International Airport
10:00 – 10:30AM	Group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage and board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the duration of the trip.
10:30 AM	Depart airport – snacks on board during route to agricultural area
11:30 AM	Arrive at Everglades Farm Equipment in Belle Glade for lunch & tour
1:00 PM	Depart Everglades Farm Equipment to travel to Roland Martin Marina
1:30 PM	Arrive at Roland Martin Marina, Clewiston for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee; discussion with Ernie Barnett, Florida Water and Land Advisors
3:00 PM	Check into Roland Martin Marina hotel, personal time
4:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive through Southern Gardens Citrus, Clewiston – Nursery/grove stops, presentation by Citrus Team (Denise Roth, Plant Manager and presentation on Citrus Greening by Tim Eyrich, Vice President of Development, Southern Gardens Citrus)
6:00 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge for welcome reception and dinner, Clewiston – American Farm Policy & Trade presentation by Judy Sanchez, Senior Director Of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar Corp. Local sugarcane farmers and elected officials will attend. Cattlemen’s Association will cater dinner, highlighting local beef industry
9:00 PM	Return to Roland Martin Marina Hotel

Thursday, February 22, 2018

8:00 AM	Get breakfast-to-go from marina
8:30 AM	Bus departs marina
9:00 – 11:00 AM	Arrive at United States Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures
11:15 – 12:30 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations – Les Baucum, U.S. Sugar Corp. and Judy Sanchez, Senior Director of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar Corp.
1:00 PM	Lunch on the bus while traveling to next tour
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Tour vegetable operations: Branch Packing, South Bay – Tour a vegetable packing house where fresh Florida sweet corn is processed for distribution. A Duda vegetables, Belle Glade – In-field experience of vegetable operations.
3:30 PM	Depart Duda to travel to West Palm Beach

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 2

2017 Congressional Staff Tour

February 21-23, 2018

5:00 PM	Check in at Marriott Hotel, West Palm Beach, Personal time
6:30 PM	Meet in hotel lobby
6:45 PM	Depart for dinner
7:00 PM	Dinner at The Regional, CityPlace, West Palm Beach, farm to table restaurant featuring local produce. Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who represents the area where the western county farms and some of the eastern farms are located, will discuss the importance of agriculture to Palm Beach County. A representative from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will talk about the importance of Palm Beach County agriculture to the State of Florida.
9:00 PM	Return to Marriott Hotel

Friday, February 23, 2018

8:30 AM	Check out of Hotel and load bus for tour Breakfast in lobby/on the bus - Drive to Mounts Botanical Gardens
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Short gardens presentation, then tour at leisure
10:30 – 11:30 AM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau's eastern Palm Beach County region; Eva Webb, Assistant Director Field Services, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Agricultural industry representatives will feature sweet corn, green beans & other vegetables, rice, nursery operations and ag research.
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch featuring local produce
12:45 PM	Depart for West Palm Beach International Airport
2:50 PM	Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #1849
5:25 PM	Arrive Reagan National Airport