



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form

Original Amendment

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, B-81 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: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: _____

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 *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 statement is true by checking the 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: Alex Smith Date: _____

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: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervising Member: Byron Donalds

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Ranking Member

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Dave Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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March 25, 2021

Ms. Alexandria Smith
Office of the Honorable Byron Donalds
523 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Smith:

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 April 6 to 9, 2021, sponsored by South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

This approval represents the Committee's determination that the proposed trip complies with relevant House rules, federal laws, and Travel Regulations promulgated by the Committee. You should engage in your own assessment of the risks and implications of engaging in travel during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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 \$415 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theodore E. Deutch".

Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Walorski".

Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member

TED/JW:adw

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)

ITINERARY

2021 Congressional Staff Tour

April 6-9, 2021

***Note: All food/catering/transportation/lodging is paid for by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation**

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

3:00 – 5:38 PM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #4877.
5:38 – 6:00 PM	Arrive Palm Beach International Airport. SFAF group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage, board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the rest of the trip.
6:00 – 7:15 PM	Bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), points of interest along the way include the Sem-Chi Rice Plant, Florida Crystals sugarcane fields, the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Mill and lettuce, sweet corn and sugarcane fields at various stages of growth. A video presentation about how sugarcane is grown and harvested will be shown during the ride.
7:15 PM	Arrive at Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston.
7:15 – 7:20 PM	Check into Roland Martin Marina hotel, prepare for dinner presentation.
8:00 – 9:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive/walk to Staghorn Kitchen. Meet local city and county elected officials during networking reception and dinner. Approximately one hour during dinner will feature the mayor of Clewiston speaking on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city and the county commissioners present will discuss the effects of Covid on the agricultural community and other issues rural areas are facing.
9:30 PM	Return to Marina hotel.

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast at hotel provided by SFAF and board bus.
8:30 AM	Bus departs Roland Martin Marina hotel; travel to sugarcane fields.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting, Les Baucum, agronomist with U. S. Sugar, will discuss compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane. Demonstration of how drones are used in the agricultural fields. Stop by pump station for discussion regarding water quality standards.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Picnic lunch at Clewiston Civic Park provided by SFAF. Discussion about Clewiston's agricultural history during lunch.
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Travel to U. S. Sugar Mill and Refinery, Clewiston.
1:15 – 3:00 PM	Arrive at U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Ryan Duffy, Dir. of Corporate Communications, U. S. Sugar. Discussion will include compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, while the refinery will focus on FDA food safety and labeling issues. Tour of packaging facilities.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Depart mill, travel to Roland Martin Marina Marina hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston.
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Southern Gardens Citrus grove stop, Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, will discuss citrus greening, hurricanes and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 2

2021 Congressional Staff Tour

April 6-9, 2021

- 6:00 – 6:30 PM Arrive at Swindle Farms in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower.
- 6:35 – 9:00 PM Working dinner where Judy Sanchez, Sr. Dir. of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar, and member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products, will give a presentation on American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing the farm bill, NAFTA and other trade issues. Carl Stringer, Vice President, IT Operations, U.S. Sugar, will illustrate how technology is used in farming. SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the farmers present and each will speak 5-10 minutes on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. Staffers will be formally introduced to all the farmers. SFAF will purchase steaks cooked by Hendry County Cattlemen’s Association. Approximately two hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
- 9:00 PM Return to Roland Martin Marina hotel.

Thursday, April 8, 2021

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM Breakfast at hotel provided by SFAF and board bus.
- 8:30 AM Bus departs Roland Martin Marina hotel.
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Travel to Belle Glade to A. Duda & Sons.
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tour of A. Duda & Sons led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where celery, radishes, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of celery while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
- 11:00 - 11:30 AM Travel to TKM Bengard Farms, LLC, also in Belle Glade.
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Stephen Basore, one of six brothers who run the farm, will lead the tour of TKM Bengard Farms, LLC, the largest lettuce grower east of the Mississippi that sells produce to major processors and retailers that in turn, distribute to supermarkets, schools, and restaurants across the country. He will discuss transportation issues that affect his company.
- 12:15 – 12:30 pm Travel to Everglades Equipment Group
- 12:30 – 1:15 PM Working lunch at Everglades Equipment Group, largest John Deere tractor dealer in Florida. Jason Tucker will discuss issues with Tier 4 tractor emissions required in the U.S. compared to other countries and how Covid has affected their business operations.
- 1:15 - 1:30 PM Travel to Slim’s Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee.
- 1:30 – 3:30 PM Depart from dock on airboat for tour of Lake Okeechobee; Boats will stop out on the lake where Terrie Bates, a water resource specialist that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management, will explain the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discuss water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations. She will address questions from staffers. Airboats will return back to the dock.
- 3:30 – 4:45 PM Depart Slim’s Fish Camp to travel to West Palm Beach. Travel through EAA.
- 4:45 – 5:00 PM Check in at Canopy by Hilton Hotel, West Palm Beach, prepare for dinner and evening program.
- 6:45 PM Meet in hotel lobby.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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2021 Congressional Staff Tour

April 6-9, 2021

6:45 – 7:00 PM	Board bus and depart for dinner.
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Batch New Southern Kitchen, 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 as an economic driver for Palm Beach County. A representative of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will speak about the importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area to the State of Florida and the challenges the state has coordinating with federal agricultural regulations.
9:00 PM	Return to Canopy by Hilton Hotel.

Friday, April 9, 2021

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Working breakfast at hotel, overview discussion of ag operations tour from the previous day. Explain format for morning discussions so staff can be prepared to ask questions during the round table.
8:45 – 8:50 AM	Check out of Hotel and load bus for tour.
8:50 AM	Bus departs
8:50 – 9:25 AM	Drive to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market in Western Boynton Beach.
9:25 AM	Arrive at Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce to customers from the farm, grown right outside their back door.
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Tour of Bedner's U-Pick farm on tractor-pulled wagon in fields of strawberries, peppers and tomatoes adjacent to the Everglades. David Legg, an educator/tour guide, will explain just how much of the earth's surface is available for farming, highlighting how important even small farms such as theirs is and how a farm can co-exist next to a federal water refuge, following the regulations required and still provide a safe affordable food supply.
10:00 – 11:00 AM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau's eastern Palm Beach County region moderated by Eva Webb, Assistant Director Field Services, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research will discuss issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
11:00 – 11:40 AM	Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Marie Bedner will give an overview of Bedner's farming operations and explain how Covid changed Bedner's business plan from u-pick to pick up boxes and how much food went to waste during the initial Covid lockdown. She will introduce farmers who will participate in the roundtable discussions.
11:45 AM	Bus departs
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport
1:50 – 5:59 PM	Depart Palm Beach International Airport Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #1841, connecting on Flight #1775 in Charlotte.
5:59 PM	Arrive Washington-Reagan National Airport.

On April 6, we rode through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), points of interest along the way include the Sem-Chi Rice Plant, Florida Crystals sugarcane fields, the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Mill and lettuce, sweet corn, and sugarcane fields at various stages of growth. A video presentation about how sugarcane is grown and harvested was shown during the ride. We basically were introduced to the issues facing farmers and given an overview of how the trip would work.

We later drove to Staghorn Kitchen, a local restaurant. We met local, city and county elected officials for a working dinner. The mayor of Clewiston spoke on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city and the county commissioners discussed the effects of Covid on the agricultural community and other issues rural areas are facing.

On April 7, we visited sugarcane fields where we saw field operations and harvesting. Les Baucum, agronomist with U. S. Sugar, discussed compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane. I also got to witness sugar being burned. We watched a demonstration of how drones are used in the agricultural fields.

We then had lunch at Clewiston Civic Park and discussed Clewiston's agricultural history. Afterwards we went to U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for a tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Ryan Duffy, Dir. of Corporate Communications, U. S. Sugar discussed compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, and the refinery discussed FDA food safety and labeling issues. I also toured the packaging facilities. One of the saddest parts of the trip was our citrus tour at Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston. Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, discussed citrus greening, hurricanes, and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases. I learned how the citrus industry has truly declined and is in jeopardy as an American industry.

We then had dinner at Swindle Farms in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale, and broccoli. Judy Sanchez, Sr. Dir. of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar, and member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products, will give a presentation on American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing the farm bill, NAFTA, and other trade issues. Carl Stringer, Vice President, IT Operations, U.S. Sugar, spoke about how technology is used in farming. Several farmers spoke on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. We also learned about the difficulties of modernizing farms and passing them down to the next generation.

On April 8, we traveled to Belle Glade to A. Duda & Sons. The tour was led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where celery, radishes, lettuce, and other produce is grown. I observed the harvesting of celery while discussing food safety and workforce issues. We traveled to TKM Bengard Farms, LLC, also in Belle Glade. Stephen Basore led the tour of TKM Bengard Farms, LLC, the largest lettuce grower east of the Mississippi that sells produce to major processors and retailers that in turn, distribute to supermarkets, schools, and restaurants across the country. He discussed transportation issues that affect his company and then we went to Everglades Equipment Group. While there, we had a working lunch at Everglades Equipment Group, the largest John Deere tractor dealer in Florida. Jason Tucker discussed issues with Tier 4 tractor emissions required in the U.S. compared to other countries and how Covid has affected their business operations.

We then went to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for an airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee. We convened on the lake where Terrie Bates, a water resource specialist that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management. He explained the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discussed water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations.

We then had a working dinner at Batch New Southern Kitchen where Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who represents the area where the western county farms and some of the eastern farms are located, discussed the importance of agriculture as an economic driver for Palm Beach County. A representative of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services spoke about the importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area to the State of Florida and the challenges the state has coordinating with federal agricultural regulations.

On April 9, we had a working breakfast at the hotel for a discussion of ag operations tour from the previous day. We drove to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market in Western Boynton Beach, and had a U-Pick farm on tractor-pulled wagon in fields of strawberries, peppers, and tomatoes adjacent to the Everglades. David Legg, an educator/tour guide, explained how much of the earth's surface is available for farming, highlighting how important even small farms such as theirs is and how a farm can co-exist next to a federal water refuge, following the regulations required and still provide a safe affordable food supply.

We also had a one-on-one roundtable discussion with farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau's eastern Palm Beach County region moderated by Eva Webb, Assistant Director Field Services, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research discussed issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues. Afterwards we had a working with the farmers, and Marie Bedner gave an overview of Bedner's farming operations and explained how Covid changed Bedner's business plan from u-pick to pick up boxes and how much food went to waste during the initial Covid lockdown.