



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, by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

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

1. Name of Traveler: Seth Ismail

2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None

b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____

3. a. Dates: Departure: August 17, 2021 Return: August 20, 2021

b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Great Falls, MT Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Foundation for Rural Service

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:

Travel throughout Montana to visit local broadband providers and companies or operations that rely on broadband and highlight the geographic and financial challenges of providing rural broadband.

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 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: [Signature] Date: 9/7/2021

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. James E. Clyburn Date: 9/7/2021

Signature of Supervising Member: [Signature]



U.S. House of Representatives

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 on the trip within ten 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: _____
2. Travel Destination(s): _____
3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

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				
Accompanying Family Member				

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: *Pamela Becker* Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

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

Address: _____

Email: pbecker@frs.org Telephone: _____

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. **This form and any attachments may be 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: Seth Ismail

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): Congressman James E. Clyburn

Office Address: 274 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 578-0996

Email Address of Contact Person: Seth.Ismail@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 e-mail: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

- 1. Name of Traveler: Seth Ismail
- 2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
- 3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Great Falls, Carter, Havre, Box Elder, and Stanford, MT
- 4. a. Date of Departure: August 17, 2021 Date of Return: August 20, 2021
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, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
- 8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.
Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
As a legislative assistant for House Majority Whip Clyburn, I lead the tech & telecom portfolio. This includes all broadband efforts for the Majority Whip, including his Rural Broadband Task Force. This trip will provide hands-on experience to learn more about the intricacies of broadband deployment, as well as provider interaction with the FCC and Department of Agriculture.
- 9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved 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

James E. Clyburn

Date

7/14/2021



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 website (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: Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

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; House employees were invited due to their telecom focus

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

6. Date of Departure: August 17, 2021 Date of Return: August 20, 2021

7.
 - a. City of departure: Washington, DC
 - b. Destination(s): Great Falls, Montana with travel around Great Falls, MT during the 3-day tour of the state
 - c. City of return: Washington, DC

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:
 - 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 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 that the statement is true by checking 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:
FRS is the sole sponsor of the trip and will make all arrangements for travel (lodging, meals, transportation) and will incur all expenses. The mission of FRS is to sustain and enhance quality of life in rural America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. The trip will showcase the challenges of serving broadband to rural communities.
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. **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): breakfasts will be provided as part of the hotel charge; lunches and dinners will not exceed the per diem rate of \$55 (full day) or \$41.25 (partial day)
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Montana experiences geographic and financial challenges to providing broadband service to rural areas & illustrates the critical needs for these technologies.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Comfort Inn & Suites -- Airport City: Great Falls, MT Cost Per Night: \$96
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location close to airport and price
- Hotel Name: Best Western Plus Havre Inn City: Havre, MT Cost Per Night: \$96
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Location close to tour locations and price
- Hotel Name: Comfort Inn & Suites -- Airport City: Great Falls, MT Cost Per Night: \$96
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location close to airport and price
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:*



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1250 (\$1000 for flights and \$250 for bus)	\$288 (\$96 x 3 nights)	\$192 (2 partial days @ \$41.25 and 2 full days @ \$55)
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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

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 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: Pamela Becker Date: 6/22/2021

Name: Pamela Becker

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Foundation for Rural Service

Address: 4121 Wilson Boulevard, #1000

Telephone: office: 703-351-2044; mobile: 703-346-0817

Email: pbecker@frs.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, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-7103 General Fax: 202-225-7392

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

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

August 13, 2021

Mr. Seth Ismail
Office of the Honorable James Clyburn
274 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr Ismail:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Great Falls and Havre, Montana, scheduled for August 17 to 20, 2021, sponsored by Foundation for Rural Service.

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 \$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,



Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman



Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member

TED/JW:tn