



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: LaVontae Brooks
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: February 22, 2023 Return: February 23, 2023
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Miami, FL Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Florida East Coast Industries
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
 Breakfast briefing of Brightline Florida and Brightline West, with tour of Station, Operations Center and discussion of economic impact/benefits; onboard discussion of train innovations, features, guest experience; Lunch discussion with local Mayors on BL economic/business/growth impacts to their cities. Tour of RRF operations, facility, safety
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: LaVontae Brooks Date: 03/10/2023

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: Steven Horsford Date: 3-10-2023

Signature of Supervising Member: Steven Horsford



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: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

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

Address: _____

Email: _____ 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.



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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: LaVontae Brooks

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: LaVontae Brooks

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Office of Congressman Steven Horsford (NV-04)

Office Address: 406 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-25-9894

Email Address of Contact Person: LaVontae.Brooks@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.



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TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: LaVontae Brooks
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Florida East Coast Industries
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Miami, Florida
4. a. Date of Departure: February 22, 2023 Date of Return: February 23, 2023
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:
Lodging will only be required for one night.
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 Deputy Chief of Staff to Congressman Steven Horsford, I manage a wide portfolio of issues, including the transportation and infrastructure portfolio. High speed rail has been a topic of discussion as a potential policy option to mitigate commuter congestion, but to also expand reachability to other parts of the country that currently have little access. The City of Las Vegas continues to be a potential option for a high speed rail connection to the City of Los Angeles. Participation in this trip will allow me to understand the costs and benefits with high speed rail.
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

Steven Horsford

Date

1/23/23



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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:
Florida East Coast Industries
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. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: February 22, 2023 Date of return: February 23, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.
b. Destination(s): Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Florida
c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
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:



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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:
 The sponsor (FECI) is the parent company of Brightline Trains and has organized this trip in conjunction with Brightline. Brightline is the first new private passenger rail system since Congress created Amtrak. Our interest is to familiarize staff with the project, its economics, operations and systems.
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 the 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):
 2/23 breakfast, approx. \$16; 2/23 lunch, approx. \$17
 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
 it is the operational site of the Brightline system and the subject matter of the trip.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
 Hotel Name: The Langford Hotel City: Miami, FL Cost Per Night: \$215
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable price, availability and close proximity to the rail station
 Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
 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.*



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18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$364 Air fare	\$215	\$33
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	\$75	ground bus/rail transportation
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 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: 01/06/2023

Name: Husein Cumber Title: Chief Strategy Officer

Organization: Florida East Coast Industries

Address: 700 NW 1st Avenue, Suite 1620, Miami, FL 33136

Email: husein.cumber@feci.com Telephone: (904) 996-2813

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

Dave Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

February 10, 2023

Mr. Lavontae Brooks
Office of the Honorable Steven Horsford
406 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Miami, Florida, scheduled for February 22 to 23, 2023, sponsored by Florida East Coast Industries. We remind you that, because the trip sponsor employs a federal lobbyist, you may participate in officially-connected activity on one calendar day only.

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 the reporting threshold from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. That reporting threshold is currently \$415 but is set to adjust in 2023. 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 that reads "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:amr

**Florida East Coast Industries –
Brightline Intercity Passenger Rail South Florida System Delegation Visit**

February 22

- 1:44 pm: Depart Washington Reagan Airport (DCA) via AA Flight 1340 (DCA to MIA)
- 4:32 pm: Arrive Miami International Airport
- 5:00 pm: Depart via shuttle to The Langford Hotel: 121 SE 1st Street, Miami
- 5:45 pm: Arrive Langford Hotel

February 23

- 8:00 am: Depart Langford Hotel to Brightline MiamiCentral via shuttle/van
- 8:15 am: Breakfast / settle into Operations Center conference room
- 8:30 am: Background Briefing at MiamiCentral by Patrick Goddard, President Brightline Florida, & Sarah Watterson, President Brightline West
(Overview on Brightline Florida and Brightline West systems, construction progress and economic impacts/benefits.)
- 9:30 am: Tour of Brightline's MiamiCentral Station including the Operations Center
Patrick Goddard & Michael Lefevre, VP of Operations
(Tour includes an overview of Brightline's 9-acre multi-modal station in downtown Miami and general operations of the system, including response and safety)
- 10:30 am: Board Brightline train northbound to West Palm Beach
- 10:48 am: Train departs to West Palm Beach
(While onboard, Brightline representatives will provide overview of Brightline innovations on train and highlight service/guest experience.)
- 12:00 pm: Train arrives at Brightline's West Palm Beach Station
(Tour of West Palm Beach station provided by Brightline representatives)
- 12:30 pm: Board Uber XL to Brightline's Running Repair Facility (RRF)
- 12:45 pm: Lunch and Briefing at RRF

Guest speakers: WPB Mayor Keith James and Boca Mayor Scott Singer
(Guest speakers will provide an overview of impacts Brightline has had on their cities, including economic impacts and business development)
- 1:45 pm: Tour of RRF by Tom Rutkowski, Chief Mechanical Officer
(Overview of operations, including train details, train operations and safety)
- 2:30 pm: Depart RRF to Brightline's West Palm Beach Station via Brightline Train
- 2:43 pm: Train departs for Brightline's MiamiCentral Station
- 4:03 pm: Train arrives at MiamiCentral Station

4:15 pm: Shuttle departure to MIA
5:00 pm: Arrival at MIA
7:34 pm: Depart via AA Flight 2648 (MIA to DCA)
10:15pm: Arrive Washington Reagan International Airport (DCA)

Congressional Attendees:

Alexa Fox, Legislative Assistant, Rep Jim Costa
Ben Kane, Legislative Director, Rep Jimmy Gomez
Ella Khorov, Legislative Assistant, Rep Tony Cardenas
Jamie Thompson, Legislative Assistant, Rep Adam Schiff
LaVontae Brooks, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep Steven Horsford
Mitch Moonier, Legislative Assistant, Rep Dina Titus
Zac Commins, Policy Advisor, Senator Alex Padilla

Brightline Attendees:

Sarah Watterson, President Brightline West
Irene Skarlatos, Director of Public Affairs, Brightline West
Ben Porritt, SVP Corporate Affairs, Brightline
Ali Soule, VP Community Relations, Brightline
Pat Clark, Asst. Chief of Safety & Security, Brightline

Stacey Rinaldi, FECI: 321-652-7337

First Name	Last Name	Title	Office Representing	Building	Email	Reason for Invitation
Alexa	Fox	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Jim Costa	2081 Rayburn House Office Building	alexa.fox@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion
Ben	Kane	Legislative Director	Rep. Jimmy Gomez	506 Cannon House Office Building	ben.kane@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion
Ella	Khorov	Legislative Aide	Rep. Tony Cardenas	2181 Rayburn House Office Building	ella.khorov@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion
Jamie	Thompson	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Adam Schiff	2309 Rayburn House Office Building	jamie.thompson@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion
LaVontae	Brooks	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Steven Horsford	562 Cannon House Office Building	lavontae.brooks@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion
Mitch	Moonier	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Dina Titus	2464 Rayburn House Office Building	mitch.moonier@mail.house.gov	Member represents project's California-Las Vegas expansion