

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

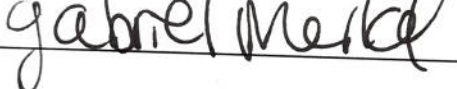
EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

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: Gabriel Merkel
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other(specify): NA
3. a. Dates: Departure: 8/12/24 Return: 8/15/24
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: NA **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Seattle, WA Return City: Boston, MA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward Foundation, Center Forward
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Met with representatives from companies in healthcare, energy, technology, retail, and other industries to tour their facilities and learn about how they are innovating within their sectors
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:  Date: 08/26/24

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. Brian Fitzpatrick Date: 8/26/24

Signature of Supervising Member: 

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 in 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 or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____

2. Travel Destination(s): _____

3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

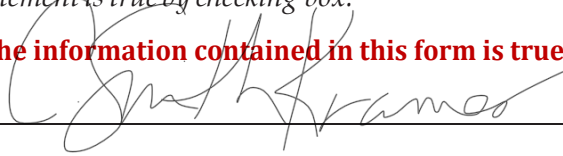
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

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: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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.

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 submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or 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: Gabriel Merkel

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): Problem Solvers Caucus

Office Address: Cannon 280

Telephone Number: 202 - 680 - 3314

Email Address of Contact Person: gabe.merkel@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 email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Gabriel Merkel
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Seattle, Washington
4. a. Date of Departure: 8/12/24 Date of Return: 8/19/24
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, invitation, 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 the legislative assistant for the Problem Solvers Caucus, my participation will allow me to participate in bipartisan policy discussions related to issues facing new and emerging industries.

9. Yes No **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: _____

Brian K. Fitzgerald Date: 7/11/2024

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's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Center Forward Foundation

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, services, or in-kind assistance 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): _____

Please see attached supplemental form.

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

6. Date of Departure: Monday, August 12th, 2024 Date of Return: Thursday, August 15th, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.

b. Destination(s): Seattle, WA

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.

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.*

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	\$1,100.00	\$690.00	\$205.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

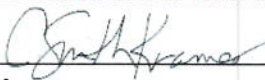
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$0.00	Air and ground transportation included above. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

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: July 8, 2024
 Name: Cori Kramer Title: CEO, Center Forward
 Organization: Center Forward Foundation
 Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
 Email: cori@center-forward.org Telephone: 202-550-0888

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

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. _____

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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:

Please see attached supplemental form.

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): \$75 for full programming days, \$55 for one travel day

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Please see attached supplemental form.

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

Hotel Name: Sheraton Grand Seattle City: Seattle Cost Per Night: \$230
Reason(s) for Selecting: Central location with easy access to downtown Seattle and reserch facilities
Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. 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

Keelie Broom
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

August 9, 2024

Mr. Gabriel Merkel
Problem Solvers Caucus
280 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Merkel:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Seattle, Washington, scheduled for August 12 to 15, 2024, sponsored by Center Forward Foundation and Center Forward.

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 \$480 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,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn



Center Forward Innovation Conference
Seattle, Washington – Monday, August 12 - Thursday, August 15, 2024
Conference Agenda

Center Forward Contact Information

Eddie Huck | (317) 979-1185 | eddie@center-forward.org
Ava Bowman Thomas | (770) 827-0242 | ava@center-forward.org
Ryan McAlpin | (585) 857-1921 | ryan@center-forward.org
Cori Kramer | (202) 550-0888 | cori@center-forward.org

<p>Monday, August 12, 2024</p>

Suggested Attire: Business Casual. Please note that we will travel straight to our first site visit after landing in Seattle.

- 7:25 am ET** Staff departs Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
Delta Airlines Flight 1015
- 10:11 am PT** Staff arrives at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)
- Center Forward staff members will greet you at the barrier as you walk into the Arrivals Hall. After everyone has gathered, the shuttle will depart the airport.*
- 10:45 am - 11:10 am** Depart Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for Oracle via shuttle (25 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on how software companies like Oracle are using technology to address issues in the healthcare industry.
- Oracle | 1501 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

11:10 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch and Learning Session at Oracle - Cloud Computing and Using Technology to Improve Health Care Outcomes

Over lunch, Oracle will provide a briefing on the transformative power of cloud technologies and their applications across all levels of the healthcare system. Cloud technology applications have allowed healthcare providers and systems to communicate and manage patient data more securely. Looking forward, cloud applications will allow healthcare systems to scale IT infrastructure more efficiently, derive insights from cloud-based analytics platforms, and expand telemedicine.

Speakers include:

- Caitlin Rice, Senior Manager, Oracle Health

1:00 pm - 1:35 pm

Depart Oracle for Pfizer Bothell Campus via shuttle (35 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on recent developments in oncology treatment and technologies.

Pfizer Bothell Campus | 21717 30th Drive, SE, Suite 3, Bothell, WA 98021

1:35 pm - 3:05 pm

Lab Tour and Presentation at Pfizer Bothell Campus

In 2023, Pfizer acquired Seagen, a biotechnology company founded and based in the Seattle area, and an industry leader in oncology research and cancer treatment. Seagen's proprietary Antibody-Drug Conjugate (ADC) technology, together with the scale and strength of Pfizer's capabilities and expertise, has the potential to transform cancer treatment.

In a discussion with researchers and leaders at Pfizer's Bothell campus, attendees will learn about Pfizer's oncology pipeline, which now includes sixty programs spanning multiple modalities. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the Bothell R&D laboratories, where Pfizer is leveraging its industry-leading protein engineering and medicinal chemistry to advance Seagen's ADC technology. Speakers will touch on barriers and incentives for innovation in the industry and include time for Q&A.

Speakers include:

- Megan O'Meara, Senior Vice President and Head of Early Clinical Development, Pfizer Oncology

3:05 pm - 3:45 pm Depart Pfizer for Omeros via shuttle (40 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on recent legislation and regulations impacting investment for research into drugs treating rare diseases.

Omeros Headquarters | 201 Elliott Avenue W, Seattle, WA 98119

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm Tour and Presentation at Omeros

Omeros is a pharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing, and commercializing small-molecule protein therapies for rare diseases and conditions, often called “orphan indicators,” targeting inflammation and central nervous system disorders. In a guided tour of their Seattle headquarters, conference attendees will learn about some of the cutting-edge therapeutics Omeros has under development.

Following the tour, representatives from Omeros and the Incubate Coalition will lead a discussion on the research and development process for new drugs, intellectual property protections, and incentives for research investment in the pharmaceutical industry. Key topics of discussion will include the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Ensuring Pathways for Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act and their impacts on the healthcare industry.

Speakers include:

- Maggie Ambrose, Director, Incubate Coalition

5:15 pm - 5:25 pm Depart Omeros for Sheraton Grand Seattle via shuttle (10 min)

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

5:25 pm - 6:10 pm Break

6:10 pm - 6:15 pm Depart the Sheraton Grand Seattle for Wild Ginger Kitchen walking (5 min).

Wild Ginger Kitchen | 1401 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Welcome Dinner

Cori Kramer will give brief welcome remarks and walk through the agenda for the following two days. Remarks will focus on the mission of Center Forward, prior conferences and results, and the importance

of bipartisanship and pragmatic governing in the current political climate.

8:00 pm - 8:05 pm

Depart Wild Ginger Kitchen en route to the Sheraton Grand Seattle walking (5 min).

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

BREAKFAST IN CLUB LOUNGE

Breakfast is available in the club lounge starting at 7:00 am

Located on 32nd Floor

*****Business Casual attire. Closed-toed shoes and long pants will be required. Please bring a government ID.***

8:40 am Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for Ash Grove Cement Company.

8:45 am - 9:00 am Depart the Sheraton Grand en route to Ash Grove Cement Company (15 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on the materials and processes that go into cement production and recent efforts in the industry to reduce carbon emissions and environmental outputs.

Ash Grove Cement Company | 3801 E Marginal Way S, Seattle, WA 98134

9:00 am - 11:00 am Tour and Discussion at Ash Grove Cement Company Plant

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to visit a working cement plant at the Ash Grove site. A tour of the facility will offer a firsthand look at the intricate process of cement production, starting from the raw materials to the final product. In addition to a demonstration of the cement-making process, representatives from Ash Grove will share some of the industry's innovative efforts to reduce carbon emissions and minimize environmental pollution using alternative fuels, new formulations, and new processes to enhance energy efficiency. Key topics of discussion will include environmental regulations, supply chain challenges, the major uses for concrete, and how its price impacts the cost of living and economic growth.

Speakers include:

- Andy White, Plant Manager, Ash Grove Cement Company

11:00 am - 11:20 am Depart Ash Grove Cement Company en route to Amazon Fulfillment Center (20 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on supply chain challenges facing retailers, and

how online vendors like Amazon are leveraging technology to streamline operations and enhance the efficiency of their employees.

Amazon Fulfillment Center | 21005 64th Avenue S, Kent, WA 98032

11:20 am - 1:00 pm Tour of Amazon Fulfillment Center

At Amazon's Fulfillment Center in Kent, WA, participants will follow an in-depth tour of one of the company's 110 hubs in a state-of-the-art, nationwide distribution network. The tour will guide attendees through the intricate logistics of processing, packaging, and shipping thousands of orders daily.

In addition to the tour, representatives from Amazon will discuss how the company leverages technology to meet global supply chain challenges and streamline operations. Key topics of discussion will include sustainability initiatives, the future of retail work, and how technology can transform the retail industry.

Speakers include:

- Erin Cohan, Senior Manager of Public Policy, Amazon

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Depart Amazon Fulfillment Center en route to SHEIN via shuttle (30 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on challenges facing the fashion industry and recent efforts to make a more sustainable supply chain for affordable products.

SHEIN | 601 108th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Lunch and Presentation at SHEIN

Over lunch, Peter Day will offer attendees an educational briefing on SHEIN's business model and their efforts to innovate in the online retail industry. SHEIN uses a new model in online retail operations, leveraging AI and advanced software to optimize production orders based on real-time consumer demand. This strategy effectively reduces excess inventory and minimizes product waste compared to traditional retailers.

Using their platform to connect independent designers directly to producers, SHEIN also empowers small artists and emerging creatives with opportunities to market their designs to a global audience while delivering affordable products to customers. This presentation will include firsthand testimonials from designers to

illustrate how SHEIN supports their growth and fosters entrepreneurial opportunities in the creative community.

Speakers include:

- Peter Day, Head of Strategic and Corporate Affairs for North America and Europe, SHEIN

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm Depart SHEIN for Sheraton Grand Seattle via shuttle (15 min).

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm Break

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm Depart Sheraton Grand Seattle en route to Elysian Fields Brewing Company via shuttle (15 min).

Elysian Fields Brewing Company and Taproom | 5410 Airport Way S, Seattle, WA 98108

5:15 pm - 8:15 pm Tour and Dinner at Elysian Fields Taproom

Representatives from Elysian and Anheuser-Busch will welcome attendees and provide an overview of the company's local economic impact and issues facing the beer industry. Conference attendees will then be broken into small groups, and following a short safety briefing, tour the brewing facilities at Elysian Taproom and learn about the importance of business, manufacturing and production, local commerce, entrepreneurship, and small business regulation.

Representatives from Elysian and Anheuser-Busch will lead a discussion on innovations in the industry to build a more sustainable supply chain to give customers more affordable, high-quality products.

Speakers include:

- Kevin Mervis, General Manager, Elysian Taproom

8:15 pm - 8:30 pm Depart Elysian Taproom for the Sheraton Grand Seattle via shuttle (15 min).

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

BREAKFAST IN CLUB LOUNGE

Breakfast is available in the club lounge starting at 7:00 am

Located on 32nd Floor

*****Business casual attire for the day. Government ID required.***

- 8:45 am** Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for the Meta.
- 8:50 am - 9:00 am** Depart the Sheraton Grand Seattle for Meta via shuttle (10 min).

Meta | 1101 Dexter Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98109
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am** Panel Discussion - The Future of AI, AR, and Responsible Tech Regulation

Technology is rapidly changing and involved in almost every aspect of our lives, especially in the world of AI and data privacy. This panel will discuss how Congress can stay current with the issue, what needs to be addressed with present technology issues, and opportunities that innovations in AI and AR present for education, health care, technical training, and more. A brief Q&A session will be held at the end of the discussion.
- Speakers include:
- Michael Kleinman, AI Policy Manager, Meta
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am** AR Headset Application Demonstrations
- 10:45 am - 10:55 am** Depart Meta en route to Madrona Venture Labs (10 min).

Madrona Venture Labs | 999 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
- 10:55 am - 12:25 pm** Meeting with Madrona Venture Labs

Madrona Venture Labs (MVL) is a premier startup studio and venture capital firm in Seattle, dedicated to building innovative technology companies and backing the next great breakthroughs in AI, cloud computing, and enterprise software. Participants will have the chance to meet with the MVL team and portfolio companies to learn about the challenges startups face and how incubators are creating

solutions. Key topics of discussion will include capital access for young companies, regulatory hurdles for new entries, and the importance of public sector support to maintain a dynamic and competitive business landscape.

Speakers include:

- Flora Ku, Head of Operations, Madrona Venture Labs
- *Additional speakers to be announced*

12:25 pm - 12:45 pm Depart Madrona Venture Labs for Nintendo of America Headquarters via shuttle (20 min).

Nintendo of America Headquarters | 4600 150th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm Tour, Lunch, and Learning Session with the Entertainment Software Association at Nintendo of America

In partnership with the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), Nintendo believes gaming is for all people of all ages, and the best entertainment connects gamers in a safe, respectful environment. To best serve their users, Nintendo is steadfastly committed to supporting the strongest standards of online safety, working in collaboration with other major platforms on an interdisciplinary approach blending technology and human oversight. Conference participants will meet with representatives from ESA and Nintendo for a discussion on the importance of online safety in the gaming industry and the challenges to meeting that goal.

Speakers include:

- Nicola Wright, Director of User Trust & Online Safety, Nintendo of America

2:15 pm - 3:00 pm Depart Nintendo of America Headquarters for Blue Origin via shuttle (45 min). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on the challenges to space flight and how private companies have transformed the industry in recent years to meet national space initiatives.

Blue Origin | 21601 76th Ave S, Kent, WA 98032

3:00 pm - 4:45 pm Tour and Meeting at Blue Origin

Working at the forefront of the aerospace industry, Blue Origin aims to make space travel more accessible and sustainable. At the Kent,

Washington headquarters, conference participants will have the chance to meet with the teams at Blue Origin and tour engineering and manufacturing labs. Attendees will learn about Blue Origin's efforts to reduce the cost of space travel through reusable rocket technology, the potential economic and scientific benefits of space research, and their vision for the future of humanity in space. Key topics of discussion will include federal regulations for space launches and travel and the role of public-private partnerships in national space initiatives.

Speakers include:

- TBD, Blue Origin

4:45 pm - 5:15 pm Depart Blue Origin en route to the Sheraton Grand Seattle via shuttle (30 min).

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

5:15 pm - 6:30 pm Break

6:30 pm - 6:45 pm Depart the Sheraton for Six Seven via shuttle (8 mins).

Six Seven Restaurant | 2411 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98121

6:45 pm - 8:30 pm Closing Dinner with the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will join attendees at dinner to discuss Seattle's rich history of innovation and business growth in the critical industries explored in the conference program. Between local institutions like the University of Washington and major global companies headquartered in the area, Seattle has created a vibrant ecosystem of highly skilled innovators to drive industrial progress. Smart federal and local policy is key to keeping this ecosystem alive, and Seattle's story can inform decisions in other states and cities to attain similar success.

Speakers include:

- Sarah Clark, Director of Policy, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

8:30 pm - 8:38 pm

Depart Six Seven en route to the Sheraton Grand Seattle via shuttle (8 min).

Sheraton Grand Seattle | 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

Thursday, August 15th, 2024

- 7:40 am - 8:00 am** Staff departs Sheraton Grand Seattle en route to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) via shuttle (20 min).
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) | 17801 International Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98158
- 9:36 am PT** Staff depart Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)
Alaska Airlines Flight 406 | 5h 1m flight time
- 5:37 pm ET** Staff arrives at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental

First	Last	Title	Affiliation	Reason
Edie	Doman	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Dave Joyce	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. Doman can give insight on the decision making process for federal research and development grants.
Troy	Dougall	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative John Curtis	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Dougall can provide speak to federal regulations and incentives to encourage sustainable manufacturing practices.
Mike	Dunn	Legislative Director	Office of Representative John Larson	As a Legislative Director for a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Dunn will have insights on how federal tax policy can encourage new and competitive business growth.
Gabrielle	Fazekas	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Scott Franklin	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. Fazekas can share Congress's perspectives on regulating artificial intelligence.
Alex	Fink	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Juan Ciscomani	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Fink can speak to the federal government resources being spent on advanced research projects.
Katherine	Gillespie	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Small Business Committee, Ms. Gillespie can speak on Congress's effort to foster an open and competitive environment for new businesses.
Hali	Gruber	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers	As a Legislative Director for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Gruber can provide insights on federal policy to encourage innovation and the development of new products in the health care industry.

Ethan	Gunnlagsson	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Brad Schneider	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Gunnlagsson can speak on federal policy to craft trade policy that both protects American businesses and keeps the U.S. competitive in the global economy.
Christopher	Hall	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Tom Kean, Jr.	As a As a Legislative Director for a Member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Mr. Hall can speak to Congress's initiatives to maintain U.S. competitiveness in critical and emerging industries.
Natalie	Hellmann	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Buddy Carter	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Hellmann can provide insight on federal regulations to ensure new and emerging technologies are safe for consumers.
Robert	Hogan	Counsel	Office of Representative Adriano Espaillat	As Counsel for a member of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Hogan can share insights on the funding and resources available public-private partnerships to support innovation and business growth.
Leah	Li	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Derek Kilmer	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. Li can speak to the federal funding for developing artificial intelligence.
Gabe	Merkel	Legislative Assistant	Problem Solvers Caucus	As a Legislative Assistant for the Problem Solvers Caucus, Mr. Merkel can offer insights on bipartisan efforts to address policy issues facing new and emerging industries.
Sequoia	Ragland	Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Marc Veasey	As a Policy Advisor for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Ragland can share perspectives on policy questions in the health care industry.
Carly	Sincavitch	Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Eric Swalwell	As a Policy Advisor for a member of the Judiciary Committee, Ms. Sincavitch can provide insights on how intellectual property law impacts innovation.
Connor	Torossian	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Marc Molinaro	As Legislative Director for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. Torossian can speak to federal initiatives to build secure and efficient supply chains for interstate and international commerce.

Annaliese	Yukawa	Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Suzan DelBene	As a Policy Advisor for a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Yukawa can speak on tax subsidies to support new and emerging industries.
Amy	Zhou	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Kim Schrier	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Zhou can share perspectives on federal priorities to support biomedical research.

12. Sponsor’s interest in the subject matter and role in organizing the trip:
Center Forward Foundation’s Innovation Conference is being convened to bring together a bipartisan group of senior legislative staffers from the House of Representatives to discuss innovation and development in America’s critical industries and how the federal government can foster business growth and further scientific progress. Center Forward’s organizational mission is to provide centrists the information they need to craft common-sense solutions and provide support in turning those ideas into results. Center Forward Foundation brings together Members of Congress, their staffs, not-for profits, academic experts, trade associations, corporations, and unions to find common ground.

Center Forward Foundation is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward Foundation is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will include cloud computing and information technology infrastructure, biotechnology research and development, technology applications for health care, sustainable manufacturing practices, supply chain management, artificial intelligence, augmented reality applications, online safety and privacy, venture capital, and business models to support small and independent artists. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices, and will speak with researchers, engineers, business leaders, startup founders, and independent artists in the Seattle area.

15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
Seattle, Washington was selected as the location for the location of this conference to give attendees an on-the-ground experience in one of America’s largest innovation hub cities. The Greater Seattle area is the birthplace of some of the most innovative, successful, and wide reaching companies in the United States and is a major hub for multiple industries, including technology, health care, and retail. The port of Seattle serves as a vital connection for multinational companies and managing import and export supply chains for the West Coast. Coupled with a world-class university and a remarkable highly-skilled talent pool, Seattle remains a powerful center for business growth and cutting-edge research. Throughout the conference, attendees will see the results of investment in these industries and learn about the unique culture that attracts business growth and talent from across the country.