

# 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](mailto: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: Nick Collins
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/22/2024 Return: 10/24/2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Huntley and Ottawa, IL Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: GROWMARK, Inc., Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board, Illinois Corn Marketing Board
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We visited family-owned and operated farms within central Illinois, a heavy agriculture area of the country, and learned about the growing and harvesting process.  
Additionally, we visited an agriculture research and development facility to learn ways scientists are working to address unique challenges faced by farmers and food producers. We visited a lock along the Illinois River, a major junction in the domestic ag supply chain.
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: Nicolaus J. Collins Date: 10/29/2024

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: Darin LaHood Date: 10/29/24

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: GROWMARK, Inc.; Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board; Illinois Corn Marketing Board

2. Travel Destination(s): Huntley, IL & Ottawa, IL

3. Date of Departure: 10/22/2024 Date of Return: 10/24/2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Allen Curtis Garnes IV; William Edward Dwyer IV; Jack P. Versten; Nicolaus Joseph Collins; Douglas Walter Gordon Jr; Laurel Lee Chatham

**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	\$867.15	\$298	\$111.77	n/a
Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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: Ashley McClintock Date: 10/28/2024

Name: Ashley McClintock Title: EVP of Human Resources and Corporate Services

Organization: GROWMARK, Inc.

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

Address: 1705 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701

Telephone: (309) 557-6600 Email: ckaeb@growmark.com

**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

## 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](http://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:

GROWMARK, Inc.

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, 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: Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board; Illinois Corn Marketing Board

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): Attendee list attached.  
See attached.

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

6. Date of Departure: 10/22/2024 Date of Return: 10/24/2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Huntley and Ottawa, IL

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; **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.

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): \_\_\_\_\_  
\$70 per day

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Chicago Metro region has agriculture markets and agriculture production in a concentrated area.

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

Hotel Name: Hampton Inn Huntley Chicago City: Huntley, IL Cost Per Night: \$169

Reason(s) for Selecting: Conveniently located between the final tour stop the night before and the first stop the next morning.

Hotel Name: Fairfield Inn Starved Rock City: Ottawa, IL Cost Per Night: \$129

Reason(s) for Selecting: Conveniently located between the final tour stop the night before and the first stop the next morning.

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.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$855	\$298	\$210
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	N/A	
For each Accompanying Family Member	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: *Ashley McClintock* Date: 9/30/2024  
 Name: Ashley McClintock Title: EVP of Human Resources and Corporate Services  
 Organization: GROWMARK, Inc.  
 Address: 1705 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701  
 Email: ckaeb@growmark.com Telephone: (309) 557-6600

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

Primary Sponsor Form Additional Responses

4.

Name	Title	Employer	Reason for Invitation
Laurel Lee Chatham	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Derrick Van Orden (WI-03)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee
Connor Rose	Legislative Assistant	Rep. G. T. Thompson (PA-15)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee
Alyson McKenzie Dallas	Legislative Director	Rep. Austin Scott (GA-08)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee
Raina Hackett	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Appropriations Committee
Jaylene Nicolle Kennedy	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Cory Mills (FL-07)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office
Nicolaus Joseph Collins	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Darrin LaHood (IL-16)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office
Douglas Walter Gordon Jr	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Marcus Molinaro (NY-19)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee
Anthony Raisley	Legislative Correspondent	Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office
William Edward Dwyer IV	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-02)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office
Allen Curtis Gaines IV	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Nick Langworthy (NY-23)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee
Jack P. Versten	Legislative Aide	Rep. Sean Casten (IL-06)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office
Rylan Gray	Legislative Aide	Rep. Linda Sanchez (CA-38)	Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member office

Each of the House invitees have official duties related to agriculture production, transportation, research, economic development, and renewable energy production issues. This trip is designed to provide attendees with facts on issues relevant to agriculture.

12. GROWMARK is a farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Illinois with an interest in agricultural retail operations, nutrient stewardship and transportation. GROWMARK's role in organizing and/or conducting the trip includes agenda development, securing travel arrangements (airfare, hotels), and identifying and securing tour locations.

The Illinois Corn Marketing Board leads research, education, and promotion efforts on behalf of corn grown in Illinois. They have interest in issues of general agriculture, conservation, trade, renewable energy, consumer uses of corn-based products, and transportation. The Illinois Corn Marketing Board's role is securing tour locations, arranging a farm dinner, and making other meal arrangements for attendees.

The Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board leads promotion, research, and education efforts on behalf of soybeans grown in Illinois. They have interest in issues of general agriculture, conservation, trade, renewable energy, consumer uses of soy-based products, and transportation. - outline/logistics for tour and communication; retail operations, nutrient stewardship, transportation. The Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board's role is securing tour locations, arranging a farm dinner, securing ground transportation, and making other meal arrangements for attendees.

## 2024 Congressional Staff Tour

### AGENDA

**October 22-24, 2024**

#### Tuesday, October 22

Time	Location	Topic & Speaker	District
11:15 AM  End Time 11:45 AM	<b>Midway International Airport</b> 5700 S Cicero Ave Chicago, IL 60638	<i>Inbound flight option: Southwest Flight #2411. Departs DCA 9:40am, arrives MDW 10:40am</i>  Box lunch en route to Loyola University	District 4 – Congressman Chuy Garcia
12:45 PM  End Time 2:15 PM	<b>Loyola University</b> 1032 W Sheridan Rd Chicago, IL 60660  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Tour of an urban agriculture facility and a biodiesel facility with a discussion about biodiesel research. <i>Speaker: Zach Waickman – Senior Program Manager, Loyola University Chicago</i>	District 9 – Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
3:15 PM  End Time 4:30 PM	<b>Historic Wagner Farms</b> 1510 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Learn about the importance of farm-based education and urban agriculture in the community. <i>Speaker: Blake Lanphier – Farm Operations Manager, Historic Wagner Farms</i>	District 9 – Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
6:00 PM  End Time 8:30 PM 9:15 PM	<b>Dinner - Pitstick Farm</b> 2N118 Pouley Rd Elburn, IL 60119  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Dinner on a working farm. Discussing impact of farm bill, conservation programs, ag regulations, Waters of the U.S., trade, and general production agriculture issues.  <i>Speaker: Steve Pitstick – Farmer, Pitstick Farm</i>	District 11 – Congressman Bill Foster
	<b>Hotel – Hampton Inn Huntley Chicago</b> 13000 IL-47 Huntley, IL 60142		District 8 – Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

#### Wednesday, October 23

Time	Location	Topic & Speaker	District
7:00 AM	<b>Depart hotel</b>		
8:00 AM  End Time 9:30 AM	<b>Muller-Pinehurst Dairy, Prairie Farms Processing Facility</b> 2110 Ogilby Rd Rockford, IL 61102 <b>*Confirmed*</b>	A tour of a dairy production facility. Discussion of dairy industry, animal agriculture, food safety, etc.  <i>Speaker: Geary Crom – General Manager, Rockford Division, Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.</i>	District 17 – Congressman Eric Sorensen
10:15 AM  End Time 11:30 AM	<b>Syngenta R&amp;D Center</b> 2125 IL-38 Malta, IL 60150  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Tour of Syngenta's R&D center, learn about advancements in seed, traits, and agronomic practices. <i>Speaker: David Flakne – Head, State Affairs, Syngenta</i>	District 14 – Congresswoman Lauren Underwood

12:00 PM  End Time 1:45 PM	<b>Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.</b> 11504 Keslinger Rd DeKalb, IL 60115  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Tour of a farm and successful business developed from the production on their farm. Agrotourism, marketing of locally owned farm products, and manufacturing of products for consumer use. <i>Speaker: Jamie Walter – Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.</i> Lunch served.	District 14 – Congresswoman Lauren Underwood
2:45 PM  End Time 4:15 PM	<b>GRAINCO FS</b> 11230 IL-47 Morris, IL 60450  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Visit a retail agriculture supply outlet providing crop nutrients, pesticide application products, fuel terminal, and application equipment. <i>Speaker: Alan Drake – General Manager, GRAINCO FS</i>	District 16 – Congressman Darin LaHood
5:15 PM  End Time 7:45 PM	<b>Farm Dinner – Bunting Farm</b> 26521 E 2200 N Rd Emington, IL 60934  <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Firsthand experience of harvest time in Illinois will allow participants to see and learn about crop production and ag commodity flows nationally and international. <i>Speaker: Art Bunting – Farmer, Bunting Farms</i>	District 2 – Congresswoman Robin Kelly
8:45 PM	<b>Hotel – Fairfield Inn Starved Rock</b> 3000 Fairfield Ln, Ottawa, IL 61350		District 14 – Congresswoman Lauren Underwood

**Thursday, October 24**

Time	Location	Topic & Speaker	District
7:45 AM	<b>Depart hotel</b>		
8:15 AM  End Time 9:45 AM	<b>GROWMARK Crop Nutrients Terminal</b> 520 E Shipyard Rd Seneca, IL 61360 <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Crop nutrients facility, new automation system, importance of crop nutrients and 4Rs. <i>Speaker: Rick Sompel – Director, Crop Nutrients Facility Operations, GROWMARK</i>	District 16 – Congressman Darin LaHood
10:45 AM  End Time 12:15 PM	<b>Brandon Road Lock &amp; Dam</b> 1100 S Brandon Rd Joliet, IL 60436 <b>*Confirmed*</b>	Learn about the importance of locks and dams and commerce using river system. <i>Speaker: Thomas Heinold - Chief Operations Division Rock Island, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> Box lunch en route to airport.	District 14 – Congresswoman Lauren Underwood
1:15 PM  End Time 1:30 PM	<b>Midway International Airport</b> 5700 S Cicero Ave Chicago, IL 60638	<i>Outbound flight option: Southwest Flight #106. Departs MDW 3:15pm, arrives DCA 6:00pm</i>	District 4 – Congressman Chuy Garcia



*You're Invited!*

**2024 Agriculture  
Congressional Staff Tour**

**Tuesday, October 22nd - Thursday, October  
24th**

**Come to the Windy City of Chicago for a 3-day event highlighting agriculture, infrastructure, and the tremendous economic impact agriculture has on Illinois. Register SOON as the tours will be capped at 40 congressional staff members.**

**Register @ <https://forms.office.com/r/t9zj7r09Vs>**

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**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. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: GROWMARK, Inc.
2. Name of your organization: IL Soybean Check-Off Board
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: Huntley & Ottawa, IL on Date: October 22-24, 2024  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **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;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 10/10/2024

Name: David Kubik Title: Biofuels and Trade Policy Manager

Organization: IL Soybean Check-Off Board

Address: 1108 Trinity Lane, Bloomington, IL 61704

Telephone: (630) 361-5778 Email: david.kubik@ilsoy.org

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

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**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. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: GROWMARK, Inc.
2. Name of your organization: Illinois Corn Marketing Board
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: Huntley & Ottawa, IL on Date: October 22-24, 2024  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g. meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **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;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 10/10/2024

Name: Jim Tarmann Title: Managing Director

Organization: Illinois Corn Marketing Board

Address: P.O. Box 487, Bloomington, IL 61702-487

Telephone: (309) 824-0548 Email: jtarmann@ilcorn.org

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

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Nick Collins
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: GROWMARK, Inc.;  
Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board, Illinois Corn Marketing Board
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Huntley and Ottawa, Illinois
4. a. Date of Departure: 10/22/2024 Date of Return: 10/24/2024  
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.**  
I am Congressman LaHood's legislative assistant, focused on agriculture policy. This trip enhances my work by providing me the opportunity to engage directly with ag producers across the state of Illinois, including the chance to learn about food innovation, challenges of a working farm and dairy production facility, agricultural research & development, and the retail agricultural supply chain. Additionally, site visits in Morris and Seneca, IL occur in Rep. LaHood's district and would allow for the direct interaction with constituents.  
\_\_\_\_\_
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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10/7/24

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

October 7, 2024

Mr. Nicolaus Collins  
Office of the Honorable Darin LaHood  
1424 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Collins:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Huntley and Ottawa, Illinois, scheduled for October 22 to 24, 2024, sponsored by Growmark, Inc., Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Board, and Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

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