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: Erin Melody

2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

3. a. Dates: Departure: March 6, 2026 Return: March 8, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Norfolk, VA Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: National Academies

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Attended site visits of sustainable infrastructure in Norfolk, attended panels with experts to discuss issues posed by sea level rise, climate change, hypoxia.

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: Erin V. Melody **Date:** 3/23/2026

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: Betty McCollum **Date:** 3/23/2026

Signature of Supervising Member: Betty McCollum

last updated 7/2023

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: National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
2. Travel Destination(s): Norfolk, VA
3. Date of Departure: Friday, March 6, 2026 Date of Return: Sunday, March 8, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Please see the included addendum.

   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	$160	$220	$159	$428 (Hotel meeting space rental, service fees, A/V equipment and support, reception costs)
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: Ebun Johnson Digitally signed by Ebun Johnson Date: 2026.03.18 15:48:55 -04'00' **Date:**

Name: Ebun Johnson **Title:** Chief Financial Officer

Organization: National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

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

Address: 500 Fifth St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone: 202-334-1269 **Email:** ejohnson@nas.edu

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.

last updated 7/2023

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: Erin Melody

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: Erin V. Melody

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Betty McCollum

Office Address: 2426 Rayburn

Telephone Number: 202-225-6631

Email Address of Contact Person: erin.melody@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: Erin Melody

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Norfolk, VA

4. a. Date of Departure: Friday, March 6, 2026 Date of Return: Sunday, March 8, 2026

   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 a Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. McCollum, I handle issues relating to the environment, climate change, and water infrastructure. Attending this trip will provide me with a greater understanding of the Elizabeth River Project and restoration programs. This will apply well to my work in Congress to help localities in our district become more resilient to climate change.

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: Betty McCollum **Date:** 1/30/2025

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:

   National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

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 the included addendum.

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Friday, March 6, 2026 Date of Return: Sunday, March 8, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Norfolk, VA
   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 the included addendum.
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): Friday: $51, Saturday: $68, Sunday: $40
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The Hampton Roads area of Virgina was selected as the region has direct economic and societal impacts/opportunities related to climate and the topical focus areas of the Weekend Seminar.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Norfolk Hilton The Main City: Norfolk, VA Cost Per Night: $110
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Lodging/meals available at per diem rates and proximity to potential field site visit locations.
   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.*

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

☐ Actual Amounts ☑ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$132	$220	$159
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	$371	Hotel meeting space rental, service fees, A/V equipment and support
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: Ebun Johnson Digitally signed by Ebun Johnson Date: 2026.01.21 10:57:46 -05'00' Date: _____

Name: Ebun Johnson Title: Chief Financial Officer

Organization: National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

Address: 500 Fifth St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Email: ejohnson@nas.edu Telephone: 202-334-1269

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

NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

National Academies Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship

March 2026 Weekend Seminar Post-Trip Itinerary and Cost Updates

Question 4 – House Employee Travelers:

- Jaqlyn Alderete - Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Jan Schakowsky
- Alexander Blanton - Legislative Assistant, Representative Valerie Foushee
- Kesten Bozinovic - Legislative Assistant, Representative Julia Brownley
- Dylan Cheek - Legislative Assistant, Representative Bobby Scott
- Allie Cavanagh - Policy Advisor, Representative Sarah Elfreth
- Sarah Houle - Operations/Legislative Aide, Representative Jennifer McClellan
- Rachel Jones - Legislative Operations Manager, House Committee on Natural Resources
- Carlos Medina - Executive Assistant, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
- Erin Melody - Legislative Assistant, Representative Betty McCollum
- Emma Roehrig - Staff Assistant, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Jasleen Vig - Legislative Assistant, Representative Ilhan Omar
- Keaton Whittaker - Legislative Assistant, Representative Jill Tokuda
- Caroline Wood - Research Analyst, House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Alessandra Young - Legislative Aide, Representative Greg Stanton

Itinerary Updates:

An updated itinerary with actual start/end times based on actual travel times and lecture/Q&A overruns has been provided to each traveler for submission. Please see the summary below of location and speaker changes.

- Friday, March 6th
    - The location of the working lunch and project overview was shifted to the Slover Library (235 E Plume St, Norfolk, VA 23510 – Community Room 650) due to a scheduling conflict at the Grandy Village Learning Center.
    - The overview of the Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management Project was shifted to be part of the working lunch instead of occurring after the walking tour as Audio/Visual equipment was not available at the walking tour location.
    - Kyle Spencer (Chief Resilience Officer, Norfolk Resilience Department) was unable to join the Friday overview/tour.
    - Bryan Pennington (Director of Government Relations, Norfolk Office of Intergovernmental Relations) joined the working lunch and overview presentation providing brief remarks on how the city partners with local, state, and national government entities on infrastructure projects.
    - The name of the evening learning module was updated from “Coastal Resilience” to “Coastal Impacts” to better reflect the content of the presentations.
- Saturday, March 7th
    - Lacy Shirey (Executive Director, Elizabeth River Project) and Luísa Black Ellis (Director of Resilience & Community Engagement, Elizabeth River Project) were unable to join the afternoon site visit. Instead, Phoebe Murrell (Director of Restoration & River Star Homes

Manager, Elizabeth River Project) and Victoria Dunch (Resilience Research Manager, Elizabeth River Project) joined and led walking tours.
    - The name of the afternoon learning module was updated from "Planning and Infrastructure" to "Planning, Infrastructure, and Coastal Resilience" to better reflect the content of the presentations.
    - The lecture on Green Infrastructure by Phoebe Murrell was shifted to the end for better flow of the presentations.
    - Lectures and Q&A went over the allotted time, so a panel discussion was held to close out the session instead of facilitated table discussions.
    - Updated presenter information for the Working Dinner and Regional Resilience Networking Showcase:
        - Chris Moore (Virginia Executive Director) represented the Chesapeake Bay Foundation instead of Christy Everett (Hampton Roads Director)
        - Michael Hess (Director of Design & Construction - Special Projects) represented the Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow project instead of Jay Bernas (CEO/General Manager)
        - Paul Robinson (Executive Director) represented RISE Resilience instead of Katie Stanley (Communications & Operations Manager)
        - The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Virginia Institute of Marine Science were unable to send representatives
        - Wetlands Watch was invited to participate and was represented by Skip Stiles (Founder & Senior Advisor)
- Sunday, March 8th
    - Kiho Kim was unable to attend. An alternative presenter could not be confirmed so climate impacts on coral reefs was not addressed as a lecture topic.
    - The "future of oceans" panel was changed to facilitated small group discussions.

Cost Updates:

- Transportation – transportation costs per participant increased from $132 to $160. Several invited participants could not attend due to last-minute scheduling conflicts/illness, reducing the total number of travelers.
- Other expenses - miscellaneous expenses increased from $371 to $428 per participant due to the reduced total number of participants, additional A/V equipment needs, and beer/wine at the Saturday evening working dinner/regional resilience networking showcase reception.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

National Academies Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship

March 2026 Weekend Seminar Post-Trip Itinerary and Cost Updates

Question 4 – House Employee Travelers:

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- Alexander Blanton - Legislative Assistant, Representative Valerie Foushee
- Kesten Bozinovic - Legislative Assistant, Representative Julia Brownley
- Dylan Cheek - Legislative Assistant, Representative Bobby Scott
- Allie Cavanagh - Policy Advisor, Representative Sarah Elfreth
- Sarah Houle - Operations/Legislative Aide, Representative Jennifer McClellan
- Rachel Jones - Legislative Operations Manager, House Committee on Natural Resources
- Carlos Medina - Executive Assistant, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
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NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

National Academies Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship:

March 2026 Weekend Seminar – House Ethics Primary Trip Sponsor Form Addendum

Question 4 – House Employee Invite List:

- Jaqlyn Alderete - Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Jan Schakowsky
- Shinnola Alexander - Policy Advisor, Representative Sara Jacobs
- Alexander Blanton - Legislative Assistant, Representative Valerie Foushee
- Kesten Bozinovic - Legislative Assistant, Representative Julia Brownley
- Allie Cavanagh - Policy Advisor, Representative Sarah Elfreth
- Dylan Cheek - Legislative Assistant, Representative Bobby Scott
- Shelby Davis-Prettiman - Energy and Environment Policy Advisor, Democratic Whip Katherine Clark
- Gabriel Harrison - Legislative Assistant, Representative George Whitesides
- Sarah Houle - Operations/Legislative Aide, Representative Jennifer McClellan
- Rachel Jones - Legislative Operations Manager, House Committee on Natural Resources
- Carlos Medina - Executive Assistant, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
- Erin Melody - Legislative Assistant, Representative Betty McCollum
- Amy Myers - Legislative Assistant, Representative Nellie Pou
- Kyle Pierre - Legislative Assistant, Representative Cleo Fields
- Emma Roehrig - Staff Assistant, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Jasleen Vig - Legislative Assistant, Representative Ilhan Omar
- Keaton Whittaker - Legislative Assistant, Representative Jill Tokuda
- Carline Wood – Research Analyst, House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Alessandra Young - Legislative Aide, Representative Greg Stanton

Each individual listed above has been invited to the weekend seminar because of their work on climate-related issues that will be discussed during the trip. In addition, each person is a Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellow with the National Academies. Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellows participate in the program as part of their official duty to (1) build their capacity for science informed policy making, (2) engage in dialogue with peers, and (3) enhance access to leading developments in science, engineering, and medicine.

Question 12 – Sponsor Interest and Role:

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), a private tax-exempt corporation, provides independent, objective advice to inform policy with evidence, spark progress and innovation, and confront challenging issues for the benefit of society. The NAS includes under its charter the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine (collectively referred to as the National Academies). The Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship provides current Congressional staff with a solid grounding in the science, engineering, and health dimensions of climate change, as well as opportunities to build connections with colleagues from diverse policy backgrounds. The program leverages National Academies' reports, activities, staff, and expert networks and focuses on capacity building, professional development, and networking

opportunities for program participants during a crucial window as the world confronts a changing climate.

The weekend seminar is planned as a key component of a series of training events fellows engage with over the course of their fellowships. The trip will enable fellows to engage in sustained learning on topics related to science, engineering, and medicine, including climate change, as well as the opportunity to connect information gained in the classroom to communities and projects on the ground. It will also facilitate additional dialogue amongst Congressional fellows, NAS staff, and expert volunteer instructors.

NAS staff are managing all logistics related to the weekend seminar (i.e., transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) and are developing the scientific, engineering, and medical material to be covered as well as the delivery format (i.e., short lectures, Q&A sessions, small group discussions, field visits, etc.).

NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship: Weekend Seminar

Itinerary

Day 1 - Friday, March 6th: Travel

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Transportation from Washington, DC to Norfolk, VA (Ohio Creek Watershed Project)** – 9:00 AM Departure Time
CCX Congressional Fellows and National Academies CCX Program Staff will depart from the National Academies Keck Center by bus at 9:00 AM

Locations:
- Keck Center, 500 5th St NW, Washington, DC 20001
- Ohio Creek Watershed Project, 2971 Kimball Loop, Norfolk, VA 23504

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **Working Lunch and Project Overview (Kyle Spencer and Matt Simons)**
CCX Congressional Fellows will be served lunch while staff from the City of Norfolk facilitate introductions and present an overview of their office, mission, and work.

Attendees:
- **Presenters:** Kyle Spencer (Chief Resilience Officer, Norfolk Resilience Department) & Matt Simons (Deputy Director, Norfolk Resilience Department)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)
- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Ohio Creek Watershed Project, 2971 Kimball Loop, Norfolk, VA 23504

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM **Site Visit: Ohio Creek Watershed Project**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Tour of Ohio Creek Watershed Project (Kyle Spencer and Matt Simons)
Walking tour with Q&A stops at the fishing pier, Ohio Creek pump station, levee walking trail, living shoreline, and other nature-based project features.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM Overview of the Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management (NCSRM) Project (Matt Simons)
Overview of the NCSRM project and Q&A.

3:30 PM Depart
Board motorcoach and travel to the Norfolk Hilton The Main.

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Kyle Spencer (Chief Resilience Officer, Norfolk Resilience Department) & Matt Simons (Deputy Director, Norfolk Resilience Department)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)
- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Ohio Creek Watershed Project, 2971 Kimball Loop, Norfolk, VA 23504

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM **Transportation to hotel**
Location: Norfolk Hilton The Main, 100 E Main St, Norfolk, VA 23510

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM **Hotel Check-in** – 4:00 PM Approximate Arrival Time
Fellows will receive a key upon arrival and can check in at a later time.

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Working Dinner and Learning Module: Coastal Resilience**

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM Activity: Dinner Discussion (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)
Buffet dinner will be available. Prompts and questions will be provided to the group to facilitate discussion during the meal.

6:30 PM – 6:50 PM Lecture: Sea Level Rise (Molly Mitchell)
This lecture will provide an overview of how climate change is driving sea level rise and projected impacts on coastal communities.

6:50 PM – 7:10 PM Lecture: Land Subsidence (Dan Holloway)
This lecture will provide an overview of groundwater reuse and storage, and innovative solutions to address land subsidence in the Hampton-Roads area.

7:10 PM – 7:20 PM Break

7:20 PM – 7:40 PM Lecture: Wetlands (Tracy Quirk)
This lecture will describe the role of wetlands in coastal resilience and how climate change is impacting these ecosystems.

7:40 PM – 8:00 PM Lecture: Flooding in Coastal Communities (Angela Schedel)
This lecture will cover how coastal communities face multiple sources of flooding, how climate change exacerbates these risks, and how coastal communities are responding.

8:00 PM – 8:30 PM Activity: Table Discussions (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)
Facilitated table-level discussion on select coastal resilience topics.

8:30 PM Adjourn

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Molly Mitchell (Assistant Professor, Virgina Institute of Marine Science), Dan Holloway (Hydrogeologist, Hampton Roads Sanitation District –

Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow), Tracy Quirk (Associate Professor, Louisiana State University), & Angela Schedel (Coastal Programs Director, HDR)

- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)
- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

Day 2 - Saturday, March 7th

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Working Breakfast and Daily Overview**

CCX Congressional Fellows will be served breakfast while NASEM staff present an itinerary of the day and basic background information relevant to the site visit (Ryan Resilience Lab).

Moderator: Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

Attendees: CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM **Transportation to the Ryan Resilience Lab**

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Site Visit: Elizabeth River Project's Ryan Resilience Lab**

Location: Ryan Resilience Lab, 4610 Colley Ave, Norfolk, VA 23508

9:30 AM – 9:40 AM Arrival and Check-in

9:40 AM – 10:00 AM Presentation: Elizabeth River Project Ryan Resilience Lab Overview (Lacy Shirey)
Fellows will receive an overview of the Elizabeth River Project and their work to restore the health of the Elizabeth River through restoration programs, research, and community education initiatives.

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Activity: Ryan Resilience Lab Walking Tour (Lacy Shirey, Luísa Black Ellis, and Pam Northam)
Stops on the tour will highlight cutting edge green building practices and systems such as floating docks, green roofs, solar arrays, and rainwater capture projects.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Activity: Q&A and Group Discussion (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)

11:30 AM Depart

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Lacy Shirey (Executive Director, Elizabeth River Project), Luísa Black Ellis (Director of Resilience & Community Engagement, Elizabeth River Project), & Pam Northam (Education and Public Relations Associate, Elizabeth River Project)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Ryan Resilience Lab, 4610 Colley Ave, Norfolk, VA 23508

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Transportation to Norfolk Hilton The Main**

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch and Site Visit Debrief**

CCX Congressional Fellows will have the opportunity to reflect on the Ryan Resilience Lab site visit and explore cross-cutting themes from the two site visits of the weekend. Prompts and questions will be provided to the group to facilitate discussion during the meal.

Moderator: Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

Attendees: CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM **Scheduled Break**

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM **Learning Module: Planning and Infrastructure**

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM Activity: Opening Discussion (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)
Prompts and questions will be provided to the group to facilitate discussion on planning and infrastructure

1:45 PM – 2:05 PM Lecture: Housing Infrastructure (Carlos Martin)
This lecture will provide an overview of housing infrastructure in coastal communities and climate impacts on the built environment.

2:05 PM – 2:25 PM Lecture: Adaptation in Coastal Communities (Jessica Whitehead)
This lecture will provide insights into key climate issues facing coastal communities and strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

2:25 PM – 2:35 PM Break

2:35 PM – 2:55 PM Lecture: Green Infrastructure (Phoebe Murrell)
This lecture will review different types of green infrastructure that contribute to climate resilience.

2:55 PM – 3:15 PM Lecture: Coastal Engineering (W. Bryce Corlett)
This lecture will highlight how engineers and other practitioners are adapting to and preparing for the impacts of climate change on infrastructure.

3:15 PM – 3:35 PM Lecture: Community Driven Relocation and Land-Use (Miyuki Hino)
This lecture will introduce the concept of community driven relocation and the associated social and economic challenges.

3:35 PM – 4:30 PM Activity: Table Discussions (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)
Facilitated table-level discussion on select planning and infrastructure topics.

4:30 PM Adjourn

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Carlos Martin (Vice President for Research and Policy Engagement, Resources for the Future), Phoebe Murrell (Director of Restoration, Elizabeth River Project), W. Bryce Corlett (Senior Coastal Engineer, VHB Inc.), Jessica Whitehead (Executive Director, Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience at Old Dominion University), & Miyuki Hino (Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)
- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Scheduled Break**

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM **Working Dinner and Regional Resilience Networking Showcase**
Dinner will be made available for CCX Congressional Fellows, invited experts, and participants of the Regional Resilience Networking Showcase.

The showcase will feature local organizations at the forefront of resilience efforts. Fellows will have the opportunity to connect with organizational representatives, listen to short presentations, and learn more about resilience initiatives in the Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk area.

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Christy Everett (Hampton Roads Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Jay Bernas (CEO/General Manager, Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow), Katie Stanley (Communications & Operations Manager, Rise Resilience), Greg Grootendorst, (Deputy Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission) & Derek Aday (Director, Virginia Institute of Marine Science)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM), Invited Experts and Instructors from Learning Module: Planning and Infrastructure

Location: Exchange Space – Norfolk Hilton The Main

Day 3 - Sunday, March 8th: Travel

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM **Working Breakfast and Daily Overview**

CCX Congressional Fellows will be served breakfast while National Academies staff present an itinerary for the day and travel logistics information for returning to Washington DC.

Moderator: Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

Attendees: CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM **Learning Module: Oceans**

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Lecture: Oceans (Emanuelle Di Lorenzo)
This lecture will cover impacts of climate change on oceans, including warming waters, acidification, and deoxygenation as well as the role of oceans in climate solutions.

9:30 AM – 9:55 AM Lecture: Coral Reefs (Kiho Kim)
This lecture will review the importance of coral reef ecosystems, vulnerabilities due to climate change, and ways to support coral reef conservation.

9:55 AM – 10:20 AM Lecture: Fisheries (Corey Garza)
This lecture will explore the impacts of climate on ocean and estuary fisheries, and how practitioners are utilizing a range of management strategies.

10:20 AM – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Lectures: Ocean CDR (Romany Webb and Adam Subhas)
A pair of lectures will review the technical dimensions of ocean-based carbon dioxide removal (CDR), how CDR can help mitigate climate change, and regulatory challenges related to scaling CDR.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Panel: Future of Oceans (Moderated by Ryan Gallasch)
Invited experts and fellows will participate in a panel discussion, with a focus on the interdisciplinary connections of the previous topics.

11:30 AM Adjourn

Attendees:

- **Presenters:** Emanuelle Di Lorenzo (Professor, Brown University), Kiho Kim (Professor, Washington College), Corey Garza (Professor, University of Washington), Romany Webb (Deputy Director, Sabin Center for Climate

Change Law at Columbia Law School), & Adam Subhas (Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)
- **Moderator:** Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)
- **Participants:** CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Momentum Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Lunch and Weekend Debrief**
CCX Congressional Fellows will have the opportunity to discuss cross-cutting themes from the weekend's learning modules and site visits. Prompts will be provided to facilitate discussion during the meal. National Academies staff will provide closing remarks.

Moderator: Ryan Gallasch (Congressional Affairs Officer, NASEM)

Attendees: CCX Congressional Fellows, Fellowship Program Staff (NASEM)

Location: Energy Room – Norfolk Hilton The Main

12:30 PM – 4:00 PM **Transportation back to Washington, DC** – 12:30 PM Departure Time
CCX Congressional Fellows and CCX Program Staff will be dropped off at the National Academies Keck Center at approximately 4:00 PM

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Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship – March 2026 Weekend Seminar Invitee List

The following individuals have been invited to participate in the March 2026 Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellowship weekend seminar in various capacities.

Climate Crossroads Congressional Fellows

Each individual listed below has been invited to the weekend seminar due to their status as a fellow to support their participation in fellowship activities.

Fellow Name	Office Affiliation	Title
Jaqlyn Alderete	Representative Jan Schakowsky	Senior Legislative Assistant
Shinnola Alexander	Representative Sara Jacobs	Policy Advisor
Tiffany Arthur	Congressional Budget Office	Agricultural Economist
Alexander Blanton	Representative Valerie Foushee	Legislative Assistant
Kesten Bozinovic	Representative Julia Brownley	Legislative Assistant
Mark Braza	Congressional Research Service	Research Manager
Allie Cavanagh	Representative Sarah Elfreth	Policy Advisor
Dylan Cheek	Representative Bobby Scott	Legislative Assistant
Ruthie Cohen	Senator Brian Schatz	Legislative Correspondent
Thomas Culver	Senator Patty Murray (formally, Representative Seth Magaziner)	Legislative Assistant
Shelby Davis-Prettiman	Democratic Whip Katherine Clark	Energy & Environment Policy Advisor
Melanie Ezrin	Senator Tammy Baldwin	Legislative Aide
Erica Handloff	Senate Environment and Public Works Committee	Communications Director
Gabriel Harrison	Representative George Whitesides	Legislative Assistant
Sarah Houle	Representative Jennifer McClellan	Operations/Legislative Aide
Rafeed Hussain	Previously with Senator Richard Blumenthal (final day – January 30, 2026)	Previously a Knauss Ocean Policy Fellow (final day – January 30, 2026)
Robin Hwang	Senator Jeanne Shaheen	Legislative Correspondent
Rachel Jones	House Committee on Natural Resources	Legislative Operations Manager
Siena Joy	Senator Dan Sullivan	Assistant Policy Advisor
Kathryn Kynett	Congressional Research Service	Policy Analyst

Carlos Medina	House Committee on Science, Space & Technology	Executive Assistant
Erin Melody	Representative Betty McCollum	Legislative Assistant
Amy Myers	Representative Nelli Pou	Legislative Assistant
Caroline Nielsen	Congressional Budget Office	Assistant Analyst
Kyle Pierre	Representative Cleo Fields	Legislative Assistant
Ricky Keith C Powell Graves	Senator Angela Alsobrooks	Regional Coordinator
Emma Roehrig	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	Staff Assistant
Marisa Sanchez	Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Research Assistant
Jasleen Vig	Representative Ilhan Omar	Legislative Assistant
Hanganh Vo	Senator Elizabeth Warren	Legislative Correspondent
Charlotte Ward	Senator Chuck Schumer	Legislative Assistant
Isabella Weston	Senator Peter Welch	Legislative Correspondent
Keaton Whittaker	Representative Jill Tokuda	Legislative Assistant
Caroline Wood	House Energy and Commerce Committee	Research Analyst
Alessandra Young	Representative Greg Stanton	Legislative Aide

National Academies Staff

The individuals listed below are National Academies staff invited to attend the Weekend Seminar as they work directly on the fellowship and the programming for the Weekend Seminar.

Name	Title	Role
Ryan Gallasch	Congressional Affairs Officer	Fellowship Director
Nikita Uberoi	Program Coordinator	Learning Modules and Field Visits Lead
Julie Eubank	Deputy Executive Director, Office of Congressional and Government Affairs	Fellowship Leadership & Oversight
Amanda Purcell	Associate Director, Climate Crossroads	Logistics Secondary Lead
Tucker Nelson	Congressional Affairs Officer	Fellow Point of Contact
Lauren Kalinosky	Program Assistant	Logistics Lead
Kelly Oskvig	Senior Program Officer, Center for Health, People, and Places	“Oceans” Content Lead
Daniel Burger	Program Director, Gulf Research Program	“Coastal Resilience” Content Lead

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External Subject Matter Experts

The individuals listed below are external volunteers invited to participate in the Weekend Seminar to deliver learning module, showcase, and site visit content based on their subject matter expertise. Their knowledge and experience will supplement that of National Academies staff members.

Site Visit: Ohio Creek Watershed Project

Name	Title	Affiliation
Kyle Spencer	Chief Resilience Officer	Norfolk Resilience Department
Matt Simons	Deputy Director	Norfolk Resilience Department

Learning Module and Working Dinner: Coastal Resilience

Name	Title	Affiliation
Molly Mitchell	Assistant Professor	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Dan Halloway	Hydrogeologist	Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow
Angela Schedel	Coastal Programs Director	HDR
Tracy Quirk	Associate Professor	Louisiana State University

Site Visit: Ryan Resilience Lab

Name	Title	Affiliation
Lacy Shirey	Executive Director	Elizabeth River Project
Luísa Black Ellis	Director of Resilience & Community Engagement	Elizabeth River Project
Pam Northam	Education and Public Relations Associate	Elizabeth River Project

Learning Module: Planning and Infrastructure

Name	Title	Affiliation
Carlos Martin	Vice President for Research and Policy Engagement	Resources for the Future
Phoebe Murrell	Director of Restoration	Elizabeth River Project
W. Bryce Corlett	Senior Coastal Engineer	VHB Inc.
Jessica Whitehead	Executive Director	Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience at Old Dominion University
Miyuki Hino	Assistant Professor	University of North Carolina

Working Dinner and Regional Resilience Networking Showcase

Name	Title	Affiliation
Christy Everett	Hampton Roads Director	Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Jay Bernas	CEO/General Manager	Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow
Katie Stanley	Communications & Operations Manager	Rise Resilience
Greg Grootendorst	Deputy Executive Director	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Derek Aday	Director	Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Learning Module: Oceans

Name	Title	Affiliation
Emanuelle Di Lorenzo	Professor	Brown University
Kiho Kim	Professor	Washington College
Corey Garza	Professor	University of Washington
Romany Webb	Deputy Director	Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School
Adam Subhas	Associate Scientist	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

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U.S. House of Representatives

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March 3, 2026

Ms. Erin Melody
Office of the Honorable Betty McCollum
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Melody:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Norfolk, Virginia, scheduled for March 6 to 8, 2026, sponsored by National Academy of Sciences.

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 $525 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

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:rp