

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: Johanna R. Thomas
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☒ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 16, 2026 Return: August 18, 2026
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Aspen, CO Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Technology Policy Institute
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: All meetings and events attended are represented in the attached agenda, including brief descriptions.
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: Johanna R. Thomas Date: 08/20/2026

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: Frank Pallone Jr. Date: 8/25/26

Signature of Supervising Member: Frank Pallone Jr.

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: Technology Policy Institute

2. Travel Destination(s): Aspen, Colorado

3. Date of Departure: 8/16/2026 Date of Return: 8/18/2026

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Johanna Thomas

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	\$991.40 Airfare	\$919.02	\$768.37	
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: Jane Creel Digitally signed by Jane Creel
Date: 2026.08.21 11:57:59 -04'00' Date: 08/21/2026

Name: Jane Creel Title: Corporate Secretary

Organization: Technology Policy Institute

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

Address: 2001 L Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202-828-4405 Email: jcreel@techpolicyinstitute.org

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

1. Name of Traveler: Johanna R. Thomas
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Technology Policy Institute
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Aspen, CO
4. a. Date of Departure: August 16, 2026 Date of Return: August 18, 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.**
My duties as Senior Counsel on the Communications & Technology Subcommittee require me to work on a wide variety of issues in the telecommunications and technology space. Given the conference will cover a wide variety of topics in tech and telecom, attending will better inform my understanding of how our legislative efforts and proposals are impacting these industries and American consumers.
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: Frank Pallone Jr.

Date: 7-15-26

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: _____

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): _____

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

6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

7. a. City of departure: _____

b. Destination(s): _____

c. City of return: _____

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:

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): _____

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

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

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

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			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

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

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: Jane Creel  Digitally signed by Jane Creel
Date: 2026.07.10 11:25:31 -04'00' Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

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

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



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 10, 2026

Ms. Johanna Thomas
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2323 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Aspen, Colorado, scheduled for August 16 to 18, 2026, sponsored by Technology Policy Institute .

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:ks



TECHNOLOGY
POLICY
INSTITUTE

TPI ASPEN FORUM
August 16-18, 2026
St. Regis Aspen Resort

Sunday, August 16th

8:26 am – 1:24 pm Depart Reagan National Airport (9:07 am EDT), American Airlines Flight 2607, Arrive Chicago O'Hare International Airport (10:30 am CDT), Depart Chicago O'Hare International Airport (11:16 am CDT), American Airlines Flight 4921, Arrive (1:24 pm MDT), Pitkin County Airport, Aspen, Colorado

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Shuttle to Lodging

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Lodging Check-In

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Welcome Networking Reception
Fountain Courtyard

The purpose of the welcome reception is to allow attendees to collect conference credentials and meet fellow conference attendees. Attendance is optional and remarks will be brief.

Scott Wallsten, Senior Fellow & President, Technology Policy Institute

Monday, August 17th

7:30 am – 8:00 am Breakfast
Astor Ballroom 2

8:00 am – 8:10 am Welcome Remarks
Astor Ballroom 1

Dr. Wallsten, TPI President, will welcome all attending the event and give an overview of the program.

Scott Wallsten, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute

8:10 am – 8:50 am Keynote Address: AI Innovation, Diffusion, and the Economy
Astor Ballroom 1

This keynote focuses on AI diffusion and innovation. The address will explore how artificial intelligence spreads across firms and markets, what shapes adoption, and what its trajectory means for competition, productivity, policy, and strategy.

Shane Greenstein, Martin Marshall Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School, Harvard University

Monday, August 17th continued

8:55 am – 9:30 am
Astor Ballroom 1

Fireside Chat: AI and Energy: Economist's View

This fireside chat focuses on artificial intelligence and energy. The discussion will examine AI's electricity demands, grid impacts, efficiency opportunities, market design, investment challenges.

Severin Borenstein, E.T. Grether Professor of Business Administration and Public Policy and Faculty Director of the Energy Institute, Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley

Scott Wallsten, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

9:35 am – 10:15 am
Astor Ballroom 1

Discussion: Meeting AI's Power Demand: Who Pays and Who Builds

AI's electricity demand has collided with aging grids, contested rate cases, and the politics of who pays. This panel takes up the question Severin Borenstein frames in the morning fireside, but from inside the organizations that have to act on it. The conversation will cover how cost allocation actually gets decided, where siting fights are won and lost, and whether the timeline AI demands is one the grid can deliver.

Marsden Hanna, Head of Sustainability and Energy Policy, Google

Chuck Hufstetler, Senator, State of Georgia

Debra Raggio, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, PowerBridge

Scott Wallsten, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am
Astor Ballroom 1

Discussion: Does America Lead in Quantum?

The United States is widely described as the world leader in quantum technology. But quantum is not a single race. The United States appears strong across most approaches to quantum computing, while China, through a centralized state program, is close behind in superconducting systems and leads outright in quantum communications. America's advantage rests on a decentralized, bottom-up ecosystem of private firms, universities, national laboratories, public funding, and international talent. That model has produced major milestones, but it raises a hard question about whether fragmented investment can hold the line while the foundational research base faces budget pressure. This conversation tests conventional assumptions head-on, asking where the United States actually leads, where it does not, which advantages matter most for national and economic security, and what it would take to sustain them.

David D. Awschalom, Liew Family Professor in Quantum Science & Engineering, and Physics and Director, Chicago Quantum Institute & Chicago Quantum Exchange, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, University of Chicago

Edward Parker, Senior Physical Scientist, RAND

Elizabeth Rossi, Quantum AI External Affairs, Google Quantum AI

Scott Wallsten, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

Monday, August 17th continued

11:20 am – 12:05 pm
Astor Ballroom 1

Fireside Chat: Digital Crossroads, From Telecom to Big Tech

The third edition of Digital Crossroads, the foundational text on U.S. telecommunications and competition policy, arrived in 2026 with a new co-author and an expanded thesis, that decades of telecom regulation hold direct lessons for competition policy in Big Tech. Authors Jon Nuechterlein and Howard Shelanski are interviewed by Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General and original co-author of the first two editions, on what's changed in the framework, what's held up, and what the new edition gets right and wrong about platforms, AI, and antitrust.

Jonathan Nuechterlein, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute and Distinguished Scholar, Competition Law Center, George Washington University

Howard Shelanski, Co-head, Antitrust & Competition Practice, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Phil Weiser, Attorney General, State of Colorado (moderator)

12:10 pm – 12:55 pm
Astor Ballroom 1

Discussion: Supreme Court Developments

This discussion will feature legal experts and scholars who will analyze recent Supreme Court and significant appellate court cases impacting administrative law, technology, telecommunications, separation of powers, and federal agency review. Topics will include landmark rulings affecting regulatory authority, tech policy, and telecom frameworks, as well as their implications for federal agencies and the balance of powers.

Ian Gershengorn, Partner, Jenner & Block, LLP

James Speta, Elizabeth Froehling Horner Professor of Law, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University

Jonathan Nuechterlein, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute and Distinguished Scholar, Competition Law Center, George Washington University (moderator)

12:55 pm – 1:10 pm

Break for Buffett Lunch

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm
Fountain Courtyard

A Fireside Chat with US Federal Trade Commission Chairman Andrew Ferguson

FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson will join CNBC's Brian Sullivan for a timely fireside chat on antitrust, competition, and the business environment. The conversation will explore enforcement priorities, regulatory uncertainty, market dynamics, and current events shaping how companies invest, compete, innovate, and navigate today's evolving economic and political landscape with confidence.

Andrew Ferguson, Chairman, US Federal Trade Commission

Brian Sullivan, News Anchor & Business Journalist, CNBC (moderator)

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Afternoon Break

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Astor Ballroom 2

Networking Reception & Tech Hub Experience

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Ballroom Level

Concurrent Breakout Session Dinner (Chatham House Rule Applies)

Monday, August 17th continued

Session I: Spectrum: WRC-27 Countdown and Policy Developments

This discussion will focus on what's actually contested heading into WRC-27 in Shanghai. IMT identifications in 4400-4800 MHz, 7125-8400 MHz, and 14.8-15.35 GHz pit mobile growth against federal incumbents, and force the deeper question of whether new mid-band gets allocated as exclusive licensed spectrum (China's preference), opened for unlicensed and dynamic sharing (the US model), or carved into hybrid arrangements (where Europe and the UK are still landing). Agenda Item 1.14's proposed MSS allocations in the 2 GHz bands sit at the center of the direct-to-device fight. The satellite cluster, covering ESIMs at 47-51 GHz and non-GSO FSS gateways at 51.4-52.4 GHz, will shape how non-geostationary systems scale. With CITEL, CEPT, and APT positions still forming roughly eighteen months out, the dinner will surface where industry, agencies, and allies are aligned and where they aren't.

Scott K. Bergmann, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA

Shawn Bone, Senior Director of Public Policy, Verizon Communications

Adam Cassady, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

John Giusti, Chief Regulatory Officer, GSMA and President, GSMA Foundation

Tricia Paoletta, Senior Advisor for Spectrum, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Megan Stull, Senior Manager, Regulatory Policy and Government Affairs, Apple

Rikin Thakker, Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President, Technology, NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

Jennifer Warren, Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs & Public Policy, Lockheed Martin Corporation

Sarah Oh Lam, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Technology Policy Institute (co-moderator)

Shane Tews, President, Logan Circle Strategies (co-moderator)

Session II: Universal Service Fund Reform

This discussion will convene experts to discuss Universal Service Fund reform and the FCC's broadband subsidy programs. Participants will examine the contribution factor, spending priorities, accountability, and options for voluntary reforms that can strengthen sustainability, improve targeting, and support connectivity goals across communities and networks nationwide.

Will Adams, Vice President, Strategic Policy and Planning, T-Mobile

David Don

Justin Faulb, Senior Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association

Janice Hauge, Professor and Director of Graduate Admissions, Department of Economics, University of North Texas

John Lin, Senior Counsel, Committee on Energy and Commerce, US House of Representatives*

Carol Matthey, Founder, Matthey Consulting LLC

Gregory L. Rosston, Gordon Cain Senior Fellow and Steering Committee Member, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (moderator)

Session III: Laboratories of Democracy or an American Brussels? States and Digital Regulation

Policy debates often treat digital platform regulation as a European story, built around the DMA, the DSA, and the AI Act. That story is now coming to the US, especially to the states. On competition, California's BASED Act would have barred the largest platforms from favoring their own products before it died in a state Senate committee this spring. New York's 21st Century Antitrust Act, already passed by its Senate more than once, would write a European-style abuse-of-dominance standard into state law. On governance, more than a dozen state privacy laws are now in force, while Colorado's first-in-the-nation AI Act was delayed twice and then scaled back before ever taking effect. The questions are whether any of them work, and at what cost. Two years on, the

Monday, August 17th continued

evidence on the DMA cuts both ways. Some studies find that removing self-preferencing did little to move consumers toward rivals, and businesses such as airlines and hotels report new costs, while supporters point to gains in interoperability and market access and argue enforcement is too young to judge. The state laws face the same test, whether they deliver real protection or mostly add compliance cost and fragmentation. This dinner asks whether the states are providing protections Washington has not, or importing the fragmentation that critics say is hobbling Europe.

Andrew DeVore, Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Amazon

Margot Kaminski, Moses Lasky Professor of Law, University of Colorado Law School and Director of the Privacy Initiative, Silicon Flatirons

Christopher Yoo, Imasogie Professor in Law and Technology; Professor of Communication; Professor of Computer and Information Science; Founding Director, Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition; Co-Director, Penn Center on Media, Technology & Democracy, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Scott Wallsten, President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

Tuesday, August 18th

7:30 am – 8:00 am
Astor Ballroom 2

Breakfast

8:00 am – 8:40 am
Astor Ballroom 1

A Fireside Chat: Frontier AI and What to Watch in 2027

The conversation will explore model scaling, infrastructure bottlenecks, capital formation, chip supply, and how compute is reshaping startup strategy, competition, and innovation.

Anjney Midha, Founder, AMP PBC

Scott Wallsten, President & Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

8:45 am – 9:30 am
Astor Ballroom 1

Discussion: A View from the Hill

The panel discussion, "View from the Hill," features senior staffers from key congressional member offices and the majority and minority offices of the primary subcommittees overseeing technology and telecommunications policy. This panel will provide a rare glimpse into the legislative priorities and agenda for the fall congressional term. Panelists will share perspectives on critical tech and telecom issues, including spectrum policy, broadband deployment, data privacy, and emerging technology regulations, while discussing the political dynamics and strategic considerations shaping Capitol Hill's approach.

John Connolly, Chief Counsel, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate (minority)*

John Lin, Senior Counsel, Committee on Energy and Commerce, US House of Representatives (majority)*

Johanna Thomas, Senior Counsel, Committee on Energy & Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives (minority)*

Brian Sullivan, News Anchor & Business Journalist, CNBC (moderator)

Tuesday, August 18th continued

9:30 am – 9:45 am Break

9:45 am – 10:30 am Discussion: Overruling Humphrey's Executor, The Implications for Antitrust Enforcement
Astor Ballroom 1

The Supreme Court recently overturned Humphrey's Executor, which limited presidential control of "independent" agencies, when it issued its opinion in *Trump v. Slaughter* in June 2026. Would antitrust enforcement be better or worse without an "independent" agency or would it essentially be the same? Would there be any rationale for two enforcers if both were subject to direct presidential control? Would that ultimately lead to a merging of the antitrust responsibilities of the FTC and the antitrust division? This panel will discuss what overturning Humphrey's Executor means for the structure and substance of federal antitrust enforcement.

Dina Kallay, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for International, Policy and Appellate, Antitrust Division, US Department of Justice
William Kovacic, Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy & Director of the Competition Law Center, George Washington University Law School
Maureen Ohlhausen, Partner & Co-Chair of Antitrust and Competition Practice, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Lawrence White, Robert Kavesh Professor of Economics, Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University
Thomas Lenard, Senior Fellow and President Emeritus, Technology Policy Institute (moderator)

10:35 am – 10:55 am A Fireside Chat US Federal Communications Commissioner Anna Gomez
Astor Ballroom 1

The discussion will cover First Amendment issues, broadcasting, WRC agenda items, USF reform, E-Rate, spectrum, infrastructure, enforcement, and the broader regulatory environment shaping communications markets today nationwide.

Anna Gomez, Commissioner, US Federal Communications Commission
Bryan Tramont, Managing Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP (moderator)

11:00 am – 11:45 am Discussion: Does AI Change the Economics of Telecom?
Astor Ballroom 1

AI is driving new demand for fiber, wireless capacity, edge infrastructure, and private connectivity. At the same time, communications providers are using AI to manage traffic, anticipate faults, plan capacity, and improve network performance. This panel asks whether AI is materially changing the economics of communications networks, where new investment is actually needed, which network capabilities matter most, and whether the promised returns are real or simply the latest infrastructure story.

Harold Feld, Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge
Chris Stansbury, President & CFO, Lumen Technologies Inc.
Giulia McHenry, Senior Vice President for Public Policy, AT&T
Kelcee Griffis, Telecom Reporter, Bloomberg News (moderator)

Tuesday, August 18th continued

11:50 am – 12:10 pm
Astor Ballroom 1

A Fireside Chat with US Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Olivia Trusty

The discussion will cover First Amendment issues, broadcasting, WRC agenda items, USF reform, E-Rate, spectrum, infrastructure, enforcement, and the broader regulatory environment shaping communications markets today nationwide.

Olivia Trusty, Commissioner, US Federal Communications Commission
Bryan Tramont, Managing Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP
(moderator)

12:10 pm – 12:25 pm
Astor Ballroom 2

Break for Buffet Lunch

12:25 pm – 1:10 pm
Astor Ballroom 2

Discussion: What Are Cybersecurity's Hardest Problems?

Cybersecurity in 2026 is shaped less by any single threat than by compounding pressures, an expanding IoT attack surface, more capable adversaries, supply-chain dependencies few defenders fully map, and a regulatory landscape fragmented across sectors, states, and standards-bodies. This panel asks four voices from across the field, network operators, federal standards-setters, cybersecurity lawyers, and enterprise advisors, to name the problem they actually think is hardest, where real progress has been made, and where defenders are still losing ground.

Elizabeth Chernow, Associate Vice President, Comcast Corporation
Katerina Megas, Program Manager, Cybersecurity for IoT Program, US National Institute of Standards and Technology
Alan Raul, Lecturer, Harvard Law School and Board Chair and President, Society for the Rule of Law, and Board Chair and President, Future of Privacy Forum
Ari Schwartz, Managing Director of Cybersecurity Services, Venable LLP
Shane Tews, Principal, Logan Circle Strategies (moderator)

1:10 pm – 1:55 pm
Astor Ballroom 2

Discussion: Who Should Regulate the Space Economy?

Commercial space is expanding beyond broadband service into orbital data centers, in-space servicing, manufacturing, private stations, lunar operations, and more. Several agencies share authority over space activity, and operators pursuing novel missions face overlapping reviews, uncertain timelines, and questions about which agency, if any, has clear jurisdiction. Recent proposals to create new certification or coordination mechanisms have intensified the debate. A credible framework will need to define where government should act and where it should not. This panel will ask whether the current regulatory structure can adapt, whether new authority or coordination is needed, and where the limits of government involvement should lie.

Robert McDowell, Chair, Global Communications Practice Group and Partner, Cooley, LLP
Jay Schwarz, Chief, Space Bureau, US Federal Communications Commission
Clayton Swope, Deputy Director, Aerospace Security Project and Senior Fellow, Defense and Security Department, Center for Strategic & International Studies
Scott Wallsten, President & Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute
(moderator)

Tuesday, August 18th continued

1:55 pm – 2:00 pm	Closing Remarks Scott Wallsten , President & Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute
2:00 pm	Adjourn
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Depart St Regis Aspen via complimentary shuttle Arrive Aspen Pitken County Airport
2:20 pm – 10:58 pm	Depart Aspen, Colorado, American Airlines Flights 6434/2752 Arrive Reagan National Airport (10:58 pm EDT)

* Pending Ethics Approval

** Program times noted are U.S. Mountain Daylight Saving Time (UTC-06:00) unless otherwise indicated.

ATTACHMENT A – U.S. House Private Sponsor Travel Certification
TPI Aspen Forum 2026 – August 16-18, 2026

These House staff were invited due to their senior roles and active engagement with technology and telecommunications policy matters relevant to the purpose of the trip.

<i>Invitations to TPI Aspen Forum from Dr. Sarah Oh Lam, Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute</i>				
Last, First Name	Attending?	Title	Office	Email
Lin, John	Yes	Senior Counsel	Energy and Commerce Committee, Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Majority Staff]	john.lin@mail.house.gov
Ravis, Evangelos	Yes	Counsel	Energy and Commerce Committee, Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, Majority Staff	Evangelos.Razis@mail.house.gov
Thomas, Johanna	Yes	Counsel	Energy and Commerce Committee, Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Minority Staff	johanna.thomas@mail.house.gov
Essington, Michael	No	Chief Counsel	Energy and Commerce Committee Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Majority Staff	michael.essington@mail.house.gov

ATTACHMENT B - U.S. House Private Sponsor Travel Certification
TPI Aspen Forum 2026 – August 16 -18, 2026

12. The Technology Policy Institute (TPI) is a 501(c)3 research & educational think tank examining the role and economics of emerging and existing technologies. TPI's annual summer Aspen Forum brings together policymakers, academics & industry to explore a myriad of issues related to technology and tech policy. The event is wholly organized and executed by TPI staff.

As an independent economic think tank, the Technology Policy Institute (TPI) plays a crucial role in organizing and conducting the trip, ensuring a balanced agenda for its annual summer Aspen Forum. Here's how TPI fulfills this role:

- **Organizing the Event:** TPI takes full responsibility for organizing and executing the Aspen Forum. This includes coordinating logistics, securing venues, and managing the overall event planning process.
- **Curating a Detailed Itinerary:** TPI's staff develops a comprehensive itinerary for the Aspen Forum. This itinerary serves as a blueprint for the entire event, outlining the schedule, session topics, and speakers.
- **Incorporating Diverse Perspectives:** TPI ensures that the agenda includes a wide range of perspectives by bringing together policymakers, academics, and industry professionals. This diverse mix of participants contributes to a balanced and comprehensive discussion on technology and tech policy.
- **Coordinating Venue and Travel Logistics:** TPI takes into account factors such as travel times, cost, and accommodations when planning the trip.
- **TPI's role in organizing and conducting the trip** involves creating a balanced agenda that addresses various technology-related issues, incorporates diverse perspectives, and allows for exploration and relaxation. In its 17th year, TPI Aspen Forum is an important policy conference for technology and communication matters.