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: Molly McTaggart
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: September 18, 2026 Return: September 19, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington D.C. Destination: Warrenton, VA Return City: Washington D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (NCUSCR)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Conversation with Sarah Beran on upcoming state visit, meeting with Robery Daly on the U.S. China relationship, Taiwan table top exercise, breakout discussions on AI, Chinese Industrial Policy & How Congress thinks about China.
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: Molly McTaggart **Date:** 9/28/26

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: Andrea Salinas **Date:** 9/29/26

Signature of Supervising Member: Andrea Salinas

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 Committee on U.S.-China Relations
2. Travel Destination(s): Warrenton, VA
3. Date of Departure: Sept 18, 2026 Date of Return: Sept 19, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Tobin Hansen, Lindsey Huber, Gala Loayza, Molly McTaggart, Juan Carlos Mora, Jason Moyer, Leo Sheehan

   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	$97.06	$160	$100	$180
Accompanying Family Member	$0	$0	$0	$0

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: Stephen A. Orlins Digitally signed by Stephen A. Orlins Date: 2026.09.25 13:19:06 -04'00' **Date:** September 25, 2026

Name: Stephen A. Orlins **Title:** President

Organization: National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

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

Address: 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Telephone: 212-645-9677 **Email:** sorlins@ncuscr.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.

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: Molly McTaggart

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: Molly McTaggart

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Andrea Salinas

Office Address: 403 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-5643

Email Address of Contact Person: molly.mctaggart@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*.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Molly McTaggart

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Warrenton, Virginia

4. a. Date of Departure: 9/18/2026 Date of Return: 9/19/2026

   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 LD covering the foreign affairs portfolio, this information is extremely helpful to understanding our relationship w/China as it pertains to Taiwan, trade, and nat'l Security. Rep. Salinas is also on SST & Ag—this conference will discuss AI and foreign ownership of U.S. farmland—relevant to her Committee work.

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: Andrea Salinas **Date:** 8/10/2026

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 Committee on U.S.-China Relations

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): _____

   See attached Exhibit A

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: September 18, 2026 Date of Return: September 19, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Warrenton, 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:
   See attached Exhibit B

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): approximately $90/day
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: beyond a 30-mile radius of DC, but close enough to bring in subject matter experts living in the area

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Airlie City: Warrenton, VA Cost Per Night: $160
   Reason(s) for Selecting: has all the the necessary facilities; reasonable price compared to alternatives
   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	$80	$160	$100
For each Accompanying Family Member	$0		

	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	$175	conference, breakout, and other function rooms; A/V package; welcome reception; property amenities, including wifi and self-parking
For each Accompanying Family Member	$0	

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____ Date: August 5, 2026

Name: Stephen A. Orlins Title: President

Organization: National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

Address: 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Email: sorlins@ncuscr.org Telephone: 212-645-9677

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

September 14, 2026

Ms. Molly McTaggart
Office of the Honorable Andrea Salinas
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. McTaggart:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Warrenton, Virginia, scheduled for September 18 to 19, 2026, sponsored by National Committee on US-China Relations.

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:kjf

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

NCUSCR U.S.-China Relations Congressional Staff Fellowship
Capstone Conference

September 18-19, 2026
Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA

MISSION GOAL: The goal of this offsite conference, entirely underwritten and programmed by the 501(c)(3) National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, is to immerse Congressional staffers ("Fellows") in an intensive set of briefings on U.S.-China relations — the most consequential bilateral relationship shaping U.S. national security, economic, trade, and technology policy. At the same time, the conference's casual setting will provide and encourage candid, off-the-record exchange, and ample opportunities for the Fellows to engage formally and informally with some of the field's top thinkers.

Through structured briefings and a tabletop exercise focused on Chinese domestic politics, U.S.-China technology competition, Taiwan and national security strategy, and Chinese industrial policy, the program will strengthen the Fellows' ability to analyze policy tradeoffs and better inform legislative and oversight work related to China policy.

RELEVANCE TO FELLOWS' OFFICIAL DUTIES: Congressional staff play a central role in shaping the ways Congress formulates U.S.-China policy, whether by advising Members in personal offices or supporting committees of jurisdiction. Fellows attending this program will return to their core job functions -- briefing Members ahead of China-related votes and hearings, drafting and analyzing China-related legislation, and conducting oversight on issues including export controls, defense policy, Taiwan, and foreign investment review – with additional knowledge and relationships that directly strengthen their capacity to perform their jobs.

LOCATION: The program will be held at Airlie, a conference center in Warrenton, Virginia, approximately an hour from Washington, D.C. We chose this out-of-town location deliberately: to remove participants from the day-to-day pace of the Hill; to create the sustained, uninterrupted time needed for in-depth briefings and a tabletop exercise; and to foster the kind of informal interactions among and between staffers, briefers, and program staff that shorter, in-town sessions rarely develop.

Friday, September 18

2:15pm	Depart [U.S. Capitol Visitor Center]
2:15-4:00pm	Travel by charter coach to Airlie

in

4:00-4:30pm Check-in at Airlie

4:30-5:15pm Conference registration and review of conference materials

5:15-6:00pm Reception

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:00-8:15pm **Upcoming Trump-Xi Summit – A Fireside Chat with Sarah Beran**

Description: *Xi's visit to the White House, his first since President Barack Obama received him there in September 2015, is expected to build upon the Trump-Xi summit in May 2026 in Beijing, where both sides agreed to "constructive strategic stability" as the defining principle of the relationship, a framework for managed competition rather than confrontation.*

This briefing will unpack what U.S. experts anticipate when President Donald Trump hosts President Xi Jinping for a state visit on September 24, 2026, and equip staffers to assess the summit's successes. Following the moderated discussion, Fellows will have ample time for Q&A with the two experts.

Relevance to Fellows' official duties*: This briefing provides Fellows with a grounded, expert assessment of an imminent U.S.-China summit, answering their specific questions, and equipping them to assess the summit's outcomes and advise their principals on bilateral diplomacy.*

Sarah Beran, Incoming President, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (NCUSCR); former Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Beijing; former Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs, White House National Security Council.

Robert Daly, Visiting Professor of the Practice and Founding Director of the Program on China and the United States, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland; NCUSCR Board Director *(moderator)*

- Overview of bilateral relationship dynamics and current perceptions in Beijing and Washington
- Progress/contention since last summit
- Unpacking "Constructive Strategic Stability"
- Points of leverage and structural sticking points
- Importance of U.S.-China-Taiwan relations

Saturday, September 19

9:00-12:00 **Taiwan Embargo Tabletop Exercise, Led by Mark Christopher**

Description: *Fellows are introduced to a fictitious scenario which begins with China circulating a bureaucratic customs notice in early 2028 asserting that all shipping companies arriving in and embarking from Taiwan must clear China Customs. Divided into country/territory teams potentially affected by these actions — tentatively set as the United States, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Russia, and the Philippines,*

with China roleplayed by NCUSCR staff and/or its invited subject matter experts -- Fellows roleplay as their respective government's leadership, deciding how to respond.

We anticipate having time for each country to make three moves (one per hour) in response to China's action and the responses/actions of other countries. A fourth round, in which the China team describes what China's next move would plausibly be, based on how the Fellows' teams left things at the end of round three, will be announced to close the tabletop exercise.

Explicitly not a Pentagon-style force-on-force modeling exercise, the exercise is built around a deliberately small-scale premise, meant to illustrate a realistic (non-invasion) risk to Taiwan. It is designed to surface the sometimes hard tradeoffs — deterrence vs. escalation, alliance coordination vs. unilateral action — that any change in the status quo ante might force onto decision-makers in days, not months.

Relevance to Fellows' official duties: *The exercise builds staff familiarity with and knowledge about the Taiwan issue and China's potential to employ gray-zone strategies with respect to Taiwan; the policy and military options open to the U.S. and its allies in a Taiwan crisis; and the geopolitical interdependencies and complexities of the region, directly supporting the Fellows' offices' work on defense authorization, foreign affairs, and crisis-response legislation.*

Mark Christopher, co-author, *America's Taiwan Dilemma,* and President, MC Global Risk Consulting

Country Team Advisors:
Sarah Beran, incoming President, NCUSCR
Robert Daly, Founding Director of the Program on China and the United States, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
Isaac Kardon, former Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Kendra Schaefer, Director of Tech Policy Research, Trivium China

12:00pm-12:15pm Break and move into lunch

12:15-1:15pm **Working Lunch with Tabletop Debrief: What did the group learn?**
Mark Christopher will lead the discussion.

Relevance to Fellows' official duties: *The debrief translates the exercise into concrete policy takeaways, helping staff identify legislative and oversight considerations relevant to their offices' work on Indo-Pacific security. It allows Fellows to work through implications for their own offices and committees, helping them identify follow-up questions and legislative angles tied to their committees' jurisdiction, reinforcing peer learning across the bipartisan cohort.*

1:15pm-1:30pm Break and move back to conference room

1:30-3:45pm **Expert-Led, Round-Robin Discussions**
Divided into four groups, Fellows rotate through experts, spending 30 minutes with each. Rather than formal presentations, each expert briefly frames a set of issues before

leading an informal discussion, encouraging Fellows to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore policy implications.

Discussions will delve into such topics as U.S. export controls, AI policy, and industrial competitiveness, including ways the United States might re-shore high value manufacturing; CFIUS reform, foreign ownership of U.S. farmland and infrastructure, potential national security concerns for the United States, its allies, and trading partners, and related legislation; and China's evolving strategic and economic overseas interests that have contributed to a shifting bilateral relationship.

The goal of the rotating format is to create an engaging, interactive, and distinctive capstone experience that reflects the Fellowship's emphasis on dialogue, critical thinking, and relationship building.

We will take a 15-minute coffee/bathroom break after the first hour.

***Relevance to Fellows' official duties**: These four mini briefings provide Fellows with opportunities to explore concepts, raise questions, gather info, and identify areas worthy of further research, given their own office's interest in the subject area. The exchanges will help them with their daily tasks, including drafting related bills, advising principals, and conducting oversight of agency implementation. More broadly, the discussions will increase their nuanced understanding of the complexities of the U.S.-China relationship.*

Table One: The Future of U.S.-China AI Competition
Kendra Schaefer, Director of Tech Policy Research, Trivium China

- Hardware versus software competition
- Chips, models, data, and talent
- Export controls
- Open versus closed models
- China's AI strategy
- How Congress should think about offensive and defensive competitiveness

Table Two: Chinese FDI and Strategic Infrastructure
Isaac Kardon, former Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

- Ports and logistics networks
- Critical infrastructure
- CFIUS
- Dual-use concerns
- Rightsizing national security risks

Table Three: China's Industrial Policy
Sarah Beran, incoming President, NCUSCR

- China's macroeconomic realities
- Firm behavior and incentives

- Role of outbound investment
- Global overcapacity
- Effective U.S. policy responses

Table Four: How Congress Thinks About China
Robert Daly, Founding Director of the Program on China and the United States, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

- Common misconceptions about China in Washington
- Where bipartisan consensus exists, and where it does not
- How Members and staff can become better consumers of China analysis
- The changing U.S.-China relationship over the past 25 years
- Balancing competition, deterrence, and engagement

3:45-4:30pm **Reflection, Wrap-up, and Closing**

Relevance to Fellows' official duties: *The closing session helps staff consolidate takeaways into actionable follow-up for their offices, reinforcing the fellowship's goal of translating expert engagement into improved policy work on Capitol Hill.*

4:30-5:00pm Final pack-up and checkout. Load luggage onto bus

5:00pm Depart Airlie to return to DC

5:00-6:45pm Travel by charter coach to Capitol Hill

6:45pm Arrive at [U.S. Capitol Visitor Center]

Exhibit A

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

NCUSCR U.S.-China Relations Congressional Staff Fellowship
Capstone Conference

September 18-19, 2026
Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA

Invited House Staffers
with explanations of why each staffer was invited

Shahid Ahmed — Chief of Staff, Representative Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-4)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Energy and Commerce Committee matters, including tech, telecom, and cybersecurity policy tied to U.S.-China competition
- Oversees legislative strategy on tech/infrastructure bills (e.g., AI-Ready Networks Act) with direct China policy relevance
- Coordinates office-wide positioning on China-related trade, tech, and security issues

Rafaello J. Carone — Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Pete Sessions (R-TX-17)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions — direct China sanctions/illicit finance nexus
- Supports Oversight and Government Reform Committee work on federal accountability affecting China-related programs
- Fellowship fosters cross-committee financial security policy coordination

Chris Concepcion — Policy Advisor, Representative Kimberlyn King-Hinds (R-MP-AL)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal representing the Northern Mariana Islands, a forward Indo-Pacific territory central to U.S.-China strategic competition
- Supports Transportation & Infrastructure and Small Business Committee work with direct Indo-Pacific/China security implications
- District interests (DoD basing, typhoon/disaster resilience, regional trade) tied to broader China competition in the Pacific

Matthew Duglin — Legislative Director, Representative Don Bacon (R-NE-2)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Oversees principal's legislative agenda on Armed Services Committee, including the Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation Subcommittee; principal is a vocal Armed Services voice on China policy, having formally studied Chinese military capabilities
- Directs staff work on defense authorization provisions addressing Chinese cyber and military threats

Sam Elghanayan — Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal, who sits on the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party
- Supports Armed Services Committee work (Cyber, Innovative Technologies and Information Systems Subcommittee)

- District (Silicon Valley) is directly affected by semiconductor and tech competition with China

Tobin Hansen — Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Susan DelBene (D-WA-1)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Ways and Means Committee, including the Trade Subcommittee, central to U.S.-China trade policy
- Supports work on digital privacy, tech, and cross-border data issues with China implications
- District includes tech and manufacturing sectors exposed to Chinese trade competition

Graham Harwood — Professional Committee Staff, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Committee has government-wide investigative jurisdiction, including oversight of federal agencies' China-related policy and enforcement
- Supports oversight of national security, economic, and regulatory matters implicating Chinese entities
- Fellowship strengthens staffer's capacity to investigate cross-agency China policy issues

Lindsey Huber — Legislative Assistant, Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA-2)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Supports Member, who co-founded and co-chairs the bipartisan U.S.-China Working Group, a direct nexus for the fellowship's subject matter
- Supports Member's work as Ranking Member of Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- District includes naval installations (NAS Whidbey Island, Naval Station Everett) and aerospace industry central to China strategic and trade competition
- Assists on port, supply chain, and aviation policy areas exposed to China-related risk

Alexander Koch — Professional Committee Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Committee has direct jurisdiction over U.S. foreign policy, including relations with China
- Fellowship directly supports staffer's ability to analyze and understand China policy and propose responses, a core mission of HFAC
- Builds staff expertise to support member and subcommittee work on Indo-Pacific and China-related legislation

Gala Loayza — Policy Advisor, Representative Linda Sánchez (D-CA-38)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal, who serves as Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, the subcommittee with direct U.S.-China trade jurisdiction
- Supports work on tariffs, customs enforcement, and trade fairness issues tied to China
- Enhances staffer's ability to respond to the manufacturing and labor interests directly affected by China trade policy

Molly McTaggart — Legislative Director, Representative Andrea Salinas (D-OR-6)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Oversees Member's legislative agenda on Science, Space, and Technology Committee, including AI and semiconductor workforce policy
- Supports Agriculture Committee work on trade issues affecting Oregon exporters
- District's "Silicon Forest" tech sector is directly shaped by U.S.-China technology competition

Juan Carlos Mora — Professional Staff Member, Committee on Natural Resources (House)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Committee has jurisdiction over critical minerals, public lands, and U.S. territories — key fronts in U.S.-China resource competition
- Supports legislative work on reducing U.S. dependence on China for critical minerals and rare earths
- Fellowship builds expertise directly relevant to committee's mineral security and territorial policy portfolio

Jason Moyer — Legislative Director, Representative Wesley Hunt (R-TX-38)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Oversees principal's legislative agenda on Natural Resources Committee, including Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
- Supports work on critical minerals and energy security policy tied to reducing China dependence
- Also supports Judiciary Committee national security-adjacent legislative work

Andrew Orlebeke — Chief of Staff, Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Energy and Commerce Committee, where she is Ranking Member of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee
- Supports work on consumer product safety and manufacturing policy directly affected by Chinese imports
- Oversees office-wide coordination on trade and manufacturing competitiveness issues

Leo Sheehan — Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Dave Min (D-CA-47)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Natural Resources Committee (Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee) and Oversight and Government Reform Committee; principal's background in financial regulation (SEC, Senate Banking Committee) informs economic security work relevant to China
- Supports legislative work including the Indo-Pacific Space Partnership Act

Haley Stuckey — Policy Advisor, Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL-6)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal, who chairs the Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee and has introduced legislation (SAMS Act) explicitly to end U.S. dependence on China for critical minerals
- Supports Oversight and Government Reform Committee work on energy and economic policy
- Fellowship directly reinforces principal's signature legislative focus on countering Chinese mineral supply chain dominance

Zach Weidlich — Chief of Staff, Representative Craig Goldman (R-TX-12)

- Member of NCUSCR's inaugural Congressional Staff Fellowship on U.S.-China Relations
- Advises principal on Energy and Commerce Committee, including Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade and Communications and Technology Subcommittees
- Supports legislative work on energy, trade, and technology policy areas shaped by U.S.-China competition
- Oversees office-wide legislative coordination on national defense and trade competitiveness priorities

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Q12. 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:

Having taken the first-ever delegation of Congressional staffers to the PRC in 1976, NCUSCR has a long history of organizing delegation visits and briefing programs for Members of Congress and their staffs. In addition to organizing and accompanying more than 30 MECEA delegations to China for staffers from both chambers, NCUSCR has privately sponsored nine Congressional Member delegations -- all to the PRC, with some making extension visits to Hong Kong and/or Taiwan. Our specific goal is to promote informed decision-making among our nation's top policymakers.

Operating as the sole organizer and trip sponsor, NCUSCR has designed a capstone conference to bring our inaugural Congressional staff Fellowship cohort together with a group of subject experts for deeper analysis, peer learning, and relationship-building. Leading up to the capstone, Fellows have already been briefed by a variety of subject matter experts on key issues shaping U.S.-China relations. The 1½-day capstone conference will provide an opportunity to build on those conversations through extended discussions, collaborative problem-solving, and interactive exercises with colleagues from across the House and Senate. NCUSCR will draw on its expertise and extensive network to arrange briefings, exercises, and discussions that elucidate national security, trade and investment, technology, and other issues in the bilateral relationship.