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: Mary Hrinkevich
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/7 Return: 10/10
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Austin, TX Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: The Conference brought together Congressional staff and stakeholders to to exchange perspectives on emerging issues and consider their implications for federal policymaking.
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: [signature] **Date:** 10/15/26

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: Rep. Nick LaLota **Date:** 10/15/26

Signature of Supervising Member: [signature]

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: Center Forward
2. Travel Destination(s): Austin, TX
3. Date of Departure: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 Date of Return: Saturday, October 10, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Diana Fontaine, Mary Hrinkevich

   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	$914.82	$519.00	$311.00	*All air and ground transportation included*
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: Riley Kilburg **Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Name: Riley Kilburg **Title:** Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

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

Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

Telephone: (563) 542-6821 **Email:** riley@center-forward.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: Mary Hrinkevich

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: Mary Hrinkevich

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Nick LaLota

Office Address: 122 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-3826

Email Address of Contact Person: mary@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: Mary Hrinkevich
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Austin, Texas
4. a. Date of Departure: October 7, 2026 Date of Return: October 10, 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 Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, I oversee Congressman LaLota's legislative team. The trip's ~~discussions on AI, cybersecurity, defense innovation, manufacturing, and supply chains directly relate to his committee~~ work on both the Homeland Security and Appropriations Committee. These discussions will provide useful ~~background on policy issues that arise often in those Committees.~~
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: Nick LaLota **Date:** 09/08/26

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:

   Center Forward

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

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

   Please see attached supplemental form.

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 Date of Return: Saturday, October 10, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Saturday, October 10, 2026
   b. Destination(s): Austin, TX
   c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   Please see attached supplemental form.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $80 for two full programming days, $60 for two travel days.
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Please see attached supplemental form

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Stephen F. Austin Sonesta City: Austin, TX Cost Per Night: $173
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Central location in downtown Austin with easy access to on-site meeting loca
   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	$1,050.00	$519.00	$280.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$0.00	Air and ground transportation included
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: Riley Kilburg Date: ~~Monday, August 31, 2026~~ Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: (563) 542-6821

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

October 2, 2026

Ms. Mary Hrinkevich
Office of the Honorable Nick LaLota
122 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Hrinkevich:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Austin, Texas, scheduled for October 7 to 10, 2026, sponsored by Center Forward.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $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

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental

4.

First	Last	Title	Affiliation	Reason
Shelby	Adams	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Troy Carter	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Adams can provide insight on regulatory frameworks for emerging telecommunications technology.
Natasha	Dacic	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congresswoman Veronica Escobar	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, Ms. Dacic can provide insight on federal contracts for satellite telecommunications and cybersecurity requirements for the emerging technologies.
Alex	Fink	Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director	Office of Congressman Ryan Mackenzie	As the Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fink can contribute to discussions about international cooperation towards artificial intelligence security and coordinated development and deployment of fronteir models.
Diana	Fontaine	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Glen Ivey	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, Ms. Fontaine can speak to federal funding for programs supporting early-stage startups and technological research.
Cameron	Fox	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Juan Ciscomani	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Fox can speak to federal the structure and oversight schedules of federal grant programs supporting emerging technology research and development.
Jimmy	Gao	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Adrian Smith	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Gao can speak to federal trade policy reinforcing sensitive supply chains for emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing.
Yannick	Gill	Legislative Director	Office of Congressman Christian Menefee	As a Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Mr. Gil can speak to possible applications of artificial intelligence within the federal government.

Perry	Hamilton	Deputy Member Services and Outreach Director	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	As the Deputy Member Services and Outreach Director for the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Hamilton can speak to how different members across the committee are hearing about data centers in their districts and constituent perspectives on related technology and energy policy.
Mary	Hrinkevich	Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director	Office of Congressman Nick LaLota	As the Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff for a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, Ms. Hrinkevich can provide insight on federal spending and contracts for commercializing dual-use technology developed in the national security sector.
Jeb	Houpt	Legisltiave Director	Office of Congressman Tim Walberg	As a the Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Education and Workforce, Mr. Hopt can speak to federal workforce development policies and programs to support a domestic advanced manufacturing base.
Ty	Kennedy	Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy	Office of Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak	As a Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy for a Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. Kennedy can speak to federal consumer protection regulations applying to artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
Edwin	Kindler	Policy Advisor	Office of Congressman Bill Foster	As a Policy Advisor for a Member of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. Kindler can share insights on federal policies regulating capital markets and create open, competitive ecosystems for startup companies.
Georgia	McLean	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Rob Menendez	As a Legislative Assistant for a Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. McLean can share insight on manufacturing and supply chain technology to incentivize sustainabile business practices and advanced recycling.
Darby	McQueen-Dever	Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director	Office of Congressman Michael Cloud	As a Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ms. McQueen Dever can speak to government oversight and accountability for federal programs funding or supporting emerging technology research.

Connor	Mills	Legislative Director	Office of Congressman Buddy Carter	As a Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. Mills can contribute to discussions about national electric grids and power use at data centers.
Kevin	Orellana	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Vince Fong	As a Legislative Assistant for a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. Orellana can speak to cybersecurity regulations for critical telecommunications infrastructure.
Jenna	Poleykett	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Steven Horsford	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Ms. Poleykett can contribute to conversations about digital trade policy and data sovereignty as it relates to AI tools used across national borders.
Kevin	Randle	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Congresswoman Robin Kelly	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. Randle can share perspectives on federal support for tobacco harm reduction initiatives and their impacts for public health systems.
Cameron	Rickenbach	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick	As a Legislative Assistant for a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Ms. Rickenbach can share insight on federal tax policy incentivizing research and development for emerging technologies.
Thomas	Rigali	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Pat Harrigan	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a Member of the Committee on Armed Services, Mr. Rigali can share insight on dual-use technologies, and how technology developed for national security can be commercialized for private sector uses.
Tony	Tran	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Derek Tran	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a Member of the Committee on Small Business, Mr. Tran can share perspectives from small business owners and speak on federal programs supporting founders through critical startup phases.
Britt	Van	Legislative Director	Office of Congresswoman Kristen McDonald Rivet	As a Legislative Director for a Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Ms. Van can share insights on food supply chains and how producers deliver safe, reliable, and affordable food to consumers.

Sarah	Whiteley	Legislative Assistant	Office of Congressman Tom Kean	As a Legislative Assistant to a Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Whiteley can speak to digital governance and online safety regulations impacting social media platforms.

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

Center Forward is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will artificial intelligence regulation, data centers and energy use, low earth orbit satellite telecommunications, advanced manufacturing, tobacco harm reduction technologies and regulatory approval, circular supply chains and sustainability, agriculture and food supply chains, dual-use technology for national security, and the local tech startup ecosystem. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices, and will speak with researchers, engineers, business leaders, and startup founders in the Austin area.

15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
Austin, Texas, was selected as the location for the location of this conference to give attendees an on-the-ground experience in one of America's largest innovation hub cities. The Greater Austin area has been the recipient of substantial government investment in recent years, attracting companies in artificial intelligence, telecommunications, advanced manufacturing, and other industries to move significant business operations to the area. Coupled with an open business environment that has welcomed cutting-edge companies, goods, adn services and a highly-skilled talent pool, Austin remains a powerful center for business growth and innovative research. Throughout the conference, attendees will see the results of investment in these industries and learn about the unique culture that attracts business growth and talent from across the country.

Center Forward Innovation Conference
Austin, Texas — Wednesday, October 7 - Saturday, October 10, 2026
Conference Agenda

Center Forward Contact Information
Eddie Huck | (317) 979-1185 | eddie@center-forward.org
James Jablon | (301) 466-0479 | james@center-forward.org
Ryan McAlpin | (585) 857-1921 | ryan@center-forward.org
Ciara Nolan | (248) 212-4173 | ciara@center-forward.org
Riley Kilburg | (563) 542-6821 | riley@center-forward.org

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Suggested Attire: Business Casual. There will be a break after the flight and before conference programming. Closed-toed shoes and government-issued ID are required for the site visit.

5:45 am ET	Staff taking the airport shuttle meet the Center Forward team at Capitol South Metro Station
6:00 am ET	Georgia McLean departs Wilmington International Airport (ILM) United Airlines Flight 4384 | 7-hour 27-minute flight time, layover in Newark (EWR)
5:45 am - 6:20 am ET	Staff depart Capitol South Metro Station en route to Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) via shuttle (35 minutes).
7:00 am CT	Cameron Rickenbach departs Midland International Air & Space Port (MAF) United Airlines Flight 2787 | 4-hour 6-minute travel time, layover in Houston (IAH)

8:30 am ET	Staff depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) United Airlines Flight 637 | 3-hour 31-minute flight time
11:01 am CT	Staff arrive at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) *Center Forward staff greet you at the baggage claim. After the group has gathered, our driver will depart the airport.*
11:06 am CT	Cameron Rickenbach arrives at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Depart Austin-Bergstrom International Airport for the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta (20 minutes). In transit, Eddie Huck and Riley Kilburg will share opening remarks, welcoming guests to the conference and outlining the programming and discussion topics for the week ahead. Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Hotel Check-In & Break for Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Depart the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to the Apple Austin Campus via shuttle (30 minutes). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on Apple's material recovery practice, electronics supply chain issues, and automated recycling processes. Apple Austin Campus | 6900 W Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78729
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Tour and Presentation at Apple Austin Campus *Apple supports people and communities across our global supply chain, and works to protect the planet we all share. As part of that effort, Apple's ambition is to one day make all of our products from recycled or renewable materials. Innovation plays a key role in realizing the potential of recycled material supply chains, and we continuously develop better, more efficient means of disassembling Apple products to maximize material recovery while minimizing waste.* *Participants will see Apple's investment in and the development of new recycling technologies at our Material Recovery Lab (MRL) in Austin. Participants will tour the MRL, including Daisy, a robot that can disassemble 36 iPhone models into discrete components, helping us recover more materials, including critical materials, for recycling,*

enabling a more circular economy. They will also receive an overview of Apple's environmental commitments and work in this space.

Speakers include:

- Meghan Stasz, Climate and Circular Economy Policy Lead, Apple
- Jerry Darling, Senior Briefing Engineer, Apple

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Depart the Apple Austin Campus for the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta via shuttle (30 minutes).

Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

4:30 pm - 6:15 pm Executive Time

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm Depart the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta walking (15 minutes).

Fixe Southern House | 500 W 5th Street, Austin, TX 78701

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Opening Dinner

Center Forward leadership will provide welcome remarks and walk through the conference agenda. The discussion will cover the themes and goals of the conference, the results of prior Center Forward conferences, and how conference takeaways can apply to work in D.C. Remarks will also focus on the mission of Center Forward and the importance of bipartisanship and pragmatic governing to lasting policy results.

Speakers include:

- Eddie Huck, Innovation Program Manager, Center Forward
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward

8:00 pm - 8:05 pm Depart Fixe Southern House for the Stephen F. Austin walking (10 minutes).

Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

Thursday, October 8, 2026

BREAKFAST IN STEPHEN F.'s BAR & TERRACE
Breakfast is available in the Stephen F. Bar and Terrace from 7:00 am to 8:30 am
Located on Floor 2

Suggested Attire: Business Casual. Closed-toed shoes and long pants will be required. Please bring a government ID.

8:50 am	Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for Meta.
8:55 am - 9:00 am	Depart the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to Meta walking (5 minutes). Meta | 300 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78701
9:00 am - 10:45 am	Presentation and Discussion at Meta – Building the Infrastructure for Next-Generation Intelligence: Data Centers and Local Community Relations *Meta is investing in the infrastructure that powers AI while working to build local partnerships in the communities that host data centers. In a meeting with Texas regional leadership, participants will learn about Meta's local partnerships, workforce programs, and community grants that accompany new building sites. Meta will also share its approach to local water and energy resource planning, ratepayer pledges, its contributions to local infrastructure investments, lessons learned from data center expansions, and how the company is preparing for the next phase of growth. The discussion will touch on permitting processes, stakeholder input and feedback loops, and the interface between local, state, and federal governments.* *At the meeting, participants will have time for Q&A with Meta's team and an opportunity to engage with the hardware and software products data centers help bring to consumers.* Speakers include: - John Bockstanz, Innovation Policy Manager, Meta
10:45 am - 11:30 am	Depart Meta en route to SpaceX Starlink via shuttle (45 minutes). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, the new opportunities they open for connectivity and communications access, the security concerns and

dual-use applications for LEO satellites, and the domestic manufacturing base to support Starlink's commercial applications.

SpaceX Starlink | 858 FM-1209, Bastrop, TX 78602

11:30 am - 1:45 pm Tour and Lunch Presentation at SpaceX Starlink

Starlink is SpaceX's satellite internet service: a global constellation of satellites in orbit and user terminals on the ground that deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity nearly anywhere on Earth. In a tour of Starlink's 1.7 million square foot Bastrop factory, conference participants will gain a firsthand look into how the satellites and user terminals are designed and manufactured.

The Bastrop factory employs over 2,500 people, hosting the largest printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing operation in North America, powering Starlink's V4 terminals. In a walkthrough of the production line and roundtable discussion over lunch, Starlink will share how this facility supports the continued scaling of low-Earth-orbit satellite telecommunications and its investments in the U.S.'s domestic advanced manufacturing base. The discussion will also cover cybersecurity, trade and supply chain issues, and workforce development.

Lunch provided by Center Forward.

Speakers include:

- Nicholas Picon, Director, Starlink Production, SpaceX
- Ben Lancaster, Sr. Manager, Texas Government Affairs, SpaceX

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm Depart SpaceX Starlink en route to the Texas Association of Businesses via shuttle (45 minutes).

Texas Association of Businesses | 316 W 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Product Presentation from Philip Morris International – Tobacco Harm Reduction and Bringing Innovation to Commercialization

Phillip Morris International will share a presentation on tobacco harm reduction initiatives in the industry, including an interactive product display used for adult customers in a transitional tobacco use phase. Attendees will learn about the cost of tobacco-related health issues on the American health care system, PMI's innovative

technology in the space, and the success of harm reduction initiatives in select foreign and U.S. markets. The discussion will touch on the release of PMI's IQOS device in Texas, the regulatory approval process in Texas, and PMI's forward-looking vision in this changing industry and regulatory environment.

Speakers include:

- Hernan Albamonte, Director of Local Government Affairs, Philip Morris International
- Brian Erkkila, Senior Advisor for Scientific Engagement, Philip Morris International
- Brian Weinhaus, Director for U.S. Illicit Trade Products, Philip Morris International

4:00 pm - 4:10 pm Depart the Texas Association of Businesses en route to the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta walking (10 minutes).

Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

4:10 pm - 6:30 pm Executive Time

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm Depart Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to La Condesa for dinner via walking (15 minutes).

La Condesa | 400 West 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dinner and Discussion with Online Content Creators and Opinion Influencers

Independent journalists and online content creators are playing a central role in shaping political conversations and public opinion with the rise of social platforms and decentralized media. Understanding these new platforms and the leading voices on them will be critical for Congress to communicate with and receive input from constituents. Social media influencers and independent journalists will join conference attendees for dinner and a discussion to share their experience on the other side of the camera; how audiences engage in policy conversations, the public perception of Congress and federal policy, and how they approach these topics with viewers. Discussion topics will cover governance policies for social media companies, information integrity standards, and the central policy issues driving public conversations and perceptions.

Speakers include:

- Jordan Berman, Podcast Host, Unbiased Politics
- Joshua Doss, Senior Research Manager, HIT Strategies
- Lisa Remilliard, Independent Journalist
- *Additional Guests TBA*

8:30 pm - 8:45 pm Depart La Condesa en route to the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta via walking (15 minutes).

Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

Friday, October 9, 2026

BREAKFAST IN STEPHEN F.'s BAR & TERRACE
Breakfast is available in Stephen F.'s Bar & Terrace from 7:00 am until 8:30 am
Located on Floor 2

Business casual attire for the day. Government ID required.

9:10 am Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for the Oracle.

9:15 am - 9:30 am Depart the Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to Oracle Headquarters via shuttle (15 minutes). In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will brief attendees on Oracle's cloud computing infrastructure and artificial intelligence applications in the national security space.

Oracle Headquarters | 2300 Oracle Way, Austin, TX 78741

9:30 am - 11:30 am Presentation and Discussion at Oracle Global Headquarters – Sustaining the Compute Infrastructure Behind Advanced AI

Oracle provides scalable cloud infrastructure, databases, and business applications across nearly every sector of the economy to help customers improve operations, manage data, and provide insights that enable faster and more efficient decision-making. To support these applications for public- and private-sector customers, Oracle is investing heavily in data centers and expanded computing infrastructure.

During a visit to Oracle's Global Headquarters in Austin, attendees will meet with company executives to learn how data centers and large-scale compute infrastructure translate into cloud services and AI applications, and the tangible benefits for businesses and consumers. The discussion will explore how compute clusters are architected and interconnected to support the development and deployment of AI models, the energy and infrastructure demands of data centers, water cooling and treatment systems, data security, and America's position in the global race for AI leadership. The meeting will include time for Q&A.

Speakers include:

- Simon de Montfort Walker, Executive Vice President of Industry Applications, Oracle
- Naja Woodards, Director of Political Programs, Oracle

11:30 am - 11:45 am Depart the Oracle en route to Whole Foods Headquarters via shuttle (15 minutes). In transit, a member of the Center Forward staff will brief attendees on grocery chain business models and the challenges they face growing to scale. The briefing will also cover food safety risks, sustainability issues related to food supply chains, and affordability concerns.

Whole Foods Market Global Headquarters | 525 N Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78703

11:45 am - 1:50 pm Tour, Lunch, and Roundtable at Whole Foods Headquarters

Participants will visit Whole Foods Market's (WFM) global headquarters in Austin to tour the flagship retail store and participate in a roundtable discussion. Whole Foods executives and the company's public policy team will share background on the WFM story and business, including quality standards, sourcing, and supply chain considerations, highlighting unique supplier stories and culinary innovations. The tour discussion will also touch on WFM's investment in the local Austin community and nationally focused community giving.

After the tour, participants will join WFM executives for a roundtable to discuss how WFM innovates for customers while working towards responsible sourcing, environmental and agricultural sustainability, affordable access to healthy foods, stringent food safety standards, and related legislative challenges and opportunities. The WFM team will also address any questions from congressional attendees.

Speakers include:

- Ann Marie Hourigan, Executive Leader of Quality Standards, Whole Foods Market
- Stephanie Truscott, Vice President of Merchandising, Whole Foods Market
- Nijia Zhou, Climate, Nature, and Supply Chain Policy Lead, Whole Foods Market

1:50 pm - 2:00 pm Depart Whole Foods Market Headquarters en route to Capital Factory via shuttle (10 minutes).

Capital Factory | 701 Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Presentation and Founders Meeting at Capital Factory – Central Texas Venture Ecosystem and Dual-Use Innovations

Capital Factory has been the most active early-stage investor and business incubator in Texas since 2010. In addition to venture investments, Capital Factory provides a co-working space for thousands of entrepreneurs, programmers, and designers. Capital Factory also works closely with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and U.S. Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM) to bring public and private investments in research and development to scale, benefitting both consumers and the national security apparatus.

Capital Factory will share the history of the company building the venture capital ecosystem in Central Texas and the role they play in building ideas into businesses and bringing innovation to consumers. Attendees will then meet with startup founders building businesses and applications for security, public health, and artificial intelligence. Conversations will cover barriers for startup businesses, federal funding for research and development in the national security apparatus, and commercializing defense-tech innovations for consumer and business applications.

Speakers include:

- LTC Matt Etheridge, Corporate Ventures Manager, Army Applications Laboratory
- Maj. Richard Jackson, Marine Innovation Unit
- Chloe Kratz, VIP Coordinator, Capital Factory
- Jack Ryan, Chief of Force Resilience, Defense Innovation Unit
- Nina Shelat, Director of Government Ventures, Capital Factory

4:00 pm - 4:05 pm Depart Capital Factory en route to Stephen F. Austin Sonesta walking (5 min).

Stephen F. Austin Sonesta | 701 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

4:05 pm - 6:20 pm Executive Time

6:20 pm - 6:30 pm Depart Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to Lambert's walking (10 minutes).

Lambert's | 401 W 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

Saturday, October 10, 2026

7:35 am CT	Perry Hamilton departs Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) United Airlines Flight 525 | 3-hour 14-minute flight time
9:40 am	Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS).
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Staff depart Stephen F. Austin Sonesta en route to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport via shuttle (15 minutes). Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) | 3600 Presidential Boulevard, Austin, TX 78719
11:29 am ET	Perry Hamilton arrives at Dulles International Airport (IAD)
12:03 pm CT	Staff depart Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) United Airlines Flight 4012 | 3-hour 32-minute flight time
2:01 pm CT	Georgia McLean departs Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) United Flight 637 | 3-hour 16-minute flight time
4:35 pm ET	Staff arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
3:17 pm PT	Georgia McLean arrives at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)