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: Mindy Shaw

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

3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/20/26 Return: 10/21/26
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ■ None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Savannah, GA Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Association of American Railroads, American Association of Port Auth

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Port tour, port-rail integration and supply chain discussion, roundtable discussion with local, regional, state representatives, and industry experts

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: _____ **Date:** 10/29/26

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: Sam Graves **Date:** 10/30/2026

Signature of Supervising Member: _____

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: Primary Sponsor: Association of American Railroads
   Additional Sponsor: American Association of Port Authorities
2. Travel Destination(s): Savannah, GA - Travelers joined AAR & AAPA at the Port of Savannah for an official event.
3. Date of Departure: 10/20/26 Date of Return: 10/21/26
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): See attachment.
   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	See attachment; total transportation expenses different for each individual	$303.85 (inclusive of $259 room rate, plus taxes and fees)	$61.90 / person (for those who ate breakfast & lunch provided on 10/21	N/A
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. ■ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Emily J. Pasi **Date:** 10/26/26

Name: Emily Pasi **Title:** Public Affairs Director

Organization: Association of American Railroads

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

Address: 425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20024

Telephone: (202) 639-2341 **Email:** epasi@aar.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

CamScanner

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Mindy Shaw

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Association of Railroads
American Association of Port Authorities

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Savannah, Georgia

4. a. Date of Departure: 10-20-26 Date of Return: 10-21-26

   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.

   Text

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.**

   Title: Professional staff, subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. Hearing from community leaders and industry experts on critical freight rail and port connections helps ~~inform committee oversight and railroad and maritime transportation policy.~~

9. **Yes ☐ No ■ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** 10-7-26

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:

   Association of American Railroads

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: American Association of Port Authorities

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 attachment.

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

6. Date of Departure: October 20 Date of Return: October 21

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Savannah, GA
   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:

AAR - Want to showcase firsthand to key House leaders, staff the critical connection between U.S. freight rail and ports, their role in keeping goods affordable for consumers, and the economic impact of this integration. This event is sponsored by both AAR and AAPA. AAR took the lead on all activities related to organizing and conducting event.

AAPA - Want to showcase firsthand to key House leaders, staff the critical connection between U.S. freight rail and ports, their role in keeping goods affordable for consumers, and the economic impact of this integration. This event is sponsored by both AAR and AAPA. AAPA provided secondary support on all activities related to organizing and conducting this event.

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): $40/day
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The Port of Savannah is a strong example of a highly successful port-rail connection critical to the U.S. supply chain and economy.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: The Kimpton Brice Hotel City: Savannah, GA Cost Per Night: $259 / night
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Please see attachment for response.
   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	$425	$259	$60
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: Emily Pasi Digitally signed by Emily Pasi Date: 2026.10.07 12:03:49 -04'00' Date: 10/6/26

Name: Emily Pasi Title: Public Affairs Director

Organization: Association of American Railroads

Address: 425 Third St. SW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20024

Email: epasi@aar.org Telephone: (202) 639-2341

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 19, 2026

Ms. Mindy Shaw
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Shaw:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Savannah, Georgia, scheduled for October 20 to 21, 2026, sponsored by Association of American Railroads and American Association of Port Authorities. We remind you that, because the trip sponsor employs a federal lobbyist, you may participate in officially-connected activity on one calendar day only.

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:eme

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

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

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: American Association of Railroads
2. Name of your organization: American Association of Port Authorities
3. Yes ☐ No ■ Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes ■ No ☐ Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. ***Check one.*** I certify that my organization:
   a. ☐ Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
   b. ■ Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to Destination: Georgia Ports Authority on Date: 10/20/26-10/21/26 that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
   c. ☐ Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (*e.g.*, meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. ***Check only one:***
   a. ☐ My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
   b. ■ My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
   a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
   b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
   c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
   d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: 09/03/26

Name: Shawn Balcomb Title: Public Affairs Director

Organization: American Association of Port Authorities

Address: 1201 Maryland Ave. SW, Suite 860, Washington, D.C. 20024

Telephone: 912.659.8528 Email: sbalcomb@ports.org

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

last updated 7/2023

House Travelers	Total Transportation Expenses	
Rep. Buddy Carter	$ -	
Rep. Andrew Clyde		To Come; Won't have the receipts
Rep. Hank Johnson	$ 876.80	
Matthew Hubbell	$ -	
Emilie Beall	$ -	
Connor Mills	$ -	
Gowan Smith	$ -	
Timothy Barr	$ -	
Renaldine Lafleche	$ 1,150.40	
Max Berry	$ -	
Jonathan Casas	$ -	
Houston James	$ -	
Ayush Nallapally	$ -	
Mark Ratto	$ 940.76	Airfare (inclusive of taxes and fees
Mindy Shaw	$ 836.79	Airfare (inclusive of taxes and fees
Sam Morgante	$ 899.80	Airfare (inclusive of taxes and fees
Logan Ferree	$ 978.80	Airfare (inclusive of taxes and fees
Gavin Fauntleroy	$ 836.79	Airfare (inclusive of taxes and fees

Port of Savannah Event Agenda
Tuesday, October 20 – Wednesday, October 21

Tuesday, October 20
5 – 6:30 PM

Activity	Time	Location	Details
Welcome Briefing	5-6:30 p.m.	The Kimpton Brice Hotel *601 E Bay St, Savannah, GA 31401*	*An orientation for the next day's site visit.* *Dinner will not be provided. Please plan accordingly.*

Wednesday, October 21
8:30 AM – 1 PM

Activity	Time	Location	Details
Guest Arrival & Breakfast Networking *Charter bus to provide transportation from The Kimpton Brice to port for guests. The Kimpton Brice Hotel is located at 601 E Bay St, Savannah, GA 31401. The bus will pick up guests directly across the street.*	8:30 AM	Port of Savannah, Room TBD	*Guests to check-in, go through security screening upon arrival.* *Breakfast & light refreshments will be provided.*
Opening Remarks	9:00 AM	Room TBD	*AAR, AAPA, and elected official from the district to provide welcome remarks.*
Keynote Remarks: Port–Rail Integration & Supply Chain Impact	9:15 – 9:45 AM	Room TBD	*Remarks from Georgia Ports leadership.* *Following their remarks, the group*

DRAFT

			will transition to the charter bus for the facility tour.
Guided Tour: Port Operations & Rail Terminal	10:00 – 11:00 AM	On-Terminal	*Port facility stops include:* • *Container Berth and Ship-to-Shore Cranes* • *Yard Operations: RTGs, stacks, and turn-times* • *Mason Mega Rail Terminal* • *Future Projects & Expansion Areas*
Roundtable Discussion	11:10 AM – 11:55 AM	Room TBD	*A moderated discussion with guests, local, regional, and state leaders, industry experts, & including:* • *Georgia Ports* • *Savannah Chamber of Commerce* • *Savannah Economic Development Authority* • *Georgia Retailers* • *Georgia Chamber of Commerce* • *Georgia Transportation Alliance* • *CSX* • *Norfolk Southern* • *Members of Congress* • *House T&I Staff*

DRAFT

Closing Remarks	11: 57 AM – 12 PM	Room TBD	*AAR & AAPA representatives provide closing remarks.*
Luncheon	12-12:30 PM	Room TBD	*Guests invited to join for plated lunch with event participants.*
Departures	12:30 PM		*Guests invited to board Charter Bus back to The Kimpton Brice Hotel.*

###

DRAFT

Primary Sponsor Form – AAR Addendum

Port of Savannah Event

###

Question #16: Please provide reason for selecting event hotel:

1. Response: In addition to The Kimpton Brice, AAR considered several locations throughout Savannah, including The AC Hotel, The Alida, Hotel Bardo, and Recess, at the recommendation of our local partners. The Kimpton Brice's central location, quality, price, and ability to accommodate our itinerary were all key considerations. Of all the options considered, none were less than $199 / night.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES

October 16, 2026

Emily Eisenrauch
Senior Counsel
Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Eisenrauch,

Per our discussion via electronic mail, I am writing to share the below information as an addendum to AAPA's original filing with the House Committee on Ethics dated September 3, 2026 .

With respect to the foreign government funding disclosed on AAPA's sponsor form, AAPA receives membership dues from port authorities and port-related entities in Canada, as well as from other international port organizations. These funds are deposited into AAPA's general operating accounts and are not segregated by source. Our lobbying activities are focused exclusively on U.S. ports and not international organizations.

No foreign government or multinational organizational funds were designated for or earmarked for this trip. The expenses associated with the Savannah program are being covered through AAPA's domestic operations.

Regarding AAPA's role in the trip, AAPA worked jointly with the Association of American Railroads and local hosts in planning the agenda and coordinating logistics for the program. This included identifying substantive discussion topics, arranging site visits and meetings related to freight transportation, ports, supply chains, and infrastructure issues, and assisting with general event coordination. AAPA's role is limited to planning and hosting the educational program of the event.

Sincerely,

Shawn Balcomb
Public Affairs Director
American Association of Port Authorities