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 giftravelreports@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: Mark Zientek

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

3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/12/2026 Return: 10/16/2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: New Orleans, LA Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: I attended meetings regarding domestic energy production, energy infrastructure, and conservation, which supported my duties as the primary energy and environmental advisor for Congresswoman Leger Fernandez.

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:** 10/30/2026

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Teresa Leger Fernandez **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: Center Forward
2. Travel Destination(s): New Orleans, Louisiana
3. Date of Departure: Monday, October 12th, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16th, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Tia Toombs, Rahmon Ross, Caroline Sagristano, Mark Zientek

   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	$807	$640	$218	$24
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:** October 20th, 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: Mark Zientek

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: Mark Zientek

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez

Office Address: 2417 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-6190

Email Address of Contact Person: mark.zientek@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: Mark Zientek
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: New Orleans, Louisiana
4. a. Date of Departure: Monday, October 12th, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16th, 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.**
   Mark Zientek serves as Rep. Leger Fernandez's Senior Policy Advisor on energy and environmental issues. The trip's focus on domestic energy production and conservation activities will inform the Congresswoman's work both on the Natural Resources Committee and back in our district, which has extensive oil and gas leasing and public lands.
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:** 9/10/26

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: Monday, October 12th, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16th, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Friday, October 16th, 2026
   b. Destination(s): New Orleans, Louisiana (All Staff)
   c. City of return: Washington, D.C. (All Staff Unless Otherwise Noted)
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.

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 per day for full programming day(s) and $60 per day for travel day(s)
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
         See attached.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: The Eliza Jane City: New Orleans Cost Per Night: $160
   Reason(s) for Selecting: See attached.
   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	$825	$640	$360
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$0.00	N/A
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: October 20th, 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 5, 2026

Mr. Mark Zientek
Office of the Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Zientek:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, scheduled for October 12 to 16, 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:kjf

Center Forward Energy Conference Agenda
New Orleans, Louisiana
Monday, October 12, 2026 - Friday, October 16, 2026

Center Forward Contact Information
Aidan Clements | (980) 263-7325 | aidan@center-forward.org
Riley Kilburg | (563) 542-6821 | riley@center-forward.org
Cori Kramer | (202) 550-0888 | cori@center-forward.org
Ciara Nolan | (248) 212-4173 | ciara@center-forward.org
Dominick Porcella | (631) 383-2385 | dominick@center-forward.org
Bennett Sproat | (630) 309-4830 | bennett@center-forward.org

Monday, October 12, 2026

Suggested Attire: Business Casual

2:27 pm ET	Group Flight Departs Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) en route to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) | 1 Terminal Dr, Kenner, LA 70062 American Airlines Flight AA 5243 | 2 hr 59 min flight time
4:26 pm CT	Group Flight Arrives at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) *Participants will collect luggage and meet Center Forward staff and ground transportation in the designated arrivals area.*
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Transportation to The Eliza Jane Hotel via shuttle (30 min.)

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Conference Registration and Hotel Check-In

Attendees may check into the hotel, receive conference materials, and familiarize themselves with the week's schedule. Conference staff will be available to answer questions regarding transportation, site visit logistics, attire requirements, and safety procedures.

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Break

6:45 pm - 7:00 pm Depart Eliza Jane Hotel for Welcome Dinner en route to Bourbon House via walking (15 min.)

Bourbon House | 144 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Opening Dinner and Discussion: Louisiana's Role in America's Energy Future

- Jason Lanclos, Director of State Energy Development and Planning, Louisiana Economic Development
- Cori Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward

Director Lanclos, in moderated conversation with Cori Kramer, will discuss Louisiana's role in U.S. energy production and the state's approach to balancing energy development, environmental stewardship, and infrastructure resilience. The conversation will explore how federal policies related to permitting, offshore energy development, infrastructure investment, and environmental regulation affect energy-producing states like Louisiana. Congressional staff will gain insight into how federal energy policy is implemented at the state level, directly informing their work on energy, natural resources, sustainability, and environmental policy.

9:00 pm - 9:15 pm Depart Bourbon House en route to the Eliza Jane Hotel via walking (15 min.)

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
Breakfast is available in the Couvant Restaurant from 7:00 am to 10:00 am

Business Casual Attire | Closed-Toed Shoes*

7:30 am - 9:30 am Depart The Eliza Jane Hotel en route to Port Fourchon via shuttle (2 hours).

In transit, Cori Kramer, Center Forward CEO, will provide an hour-long overview of South Louisiana's coastal energy infrastructure and the role ports, waterways, pipelines, and offshore facilities play in supporting domestic energy production. The briefing will examine the federal role in ports and waterways, offshore energy development, coastal resilience, and infrastructure investment. The discussion will prepare congressional staff to evaluate how federal energy, transportation, and environmental policies intersect along Louisiana's working coast.

Port Fourchon | 180 A O Rappelet Road, Golden Meadow, LA 70357

9:30 am - 11:45 am Tour of Port Fourchon: Supporting America's Offshore Energy Economy

- Chett Chiasson, MPA, Executive Director, Greater Lafourche Port Commission
- Leigh Guidry, Port Affairs Coordinator, Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Through a tour of Port Fourchon, participants will learn how the port supports offshore energy production and the movement of personnel,

equipment, and supplies throughout the Gulf. Port leadership will provide an overview of port operations, infrastructure, hurricane preparedness, coastal resilience, and ongoing investments needed to maintain reliable access to offshore energy resources. The visit will provide congressional staff with firsthand context for federal policy involving ports and waterways, offshore energy development, infrastructure investment, supply-chain resilience, and emergency preparedness.

11:45 am - 2:45 pm Land Conservation & Coastal Restoration: A Presentation by ConocoPhillips & Ducks Unlimited

- John Harrington, Manager, Company Owned Surface Lands, Coastal Wetlands & Eastern States, ConocoPhillips
- Russell Caffery, Director, Government Affairs for ConocoPhillips Louisiana
- Cassidy Lejeune, Director of Conservation Programs – South Louisiana, Ducks Unlimited

ConocoPhillips and Ducks Unlimited will discuss their restoration partnership and their work in and around Port Fourchon to restore and protect coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat. Participants will learn how private landowners (of which ConocoPhillips is the largest coastal landowner in the state), industry, conservation organizations, and government entities collaborate on restoration projects while balancing energy production, land management, and environmental stewardship. The discussion will provide congressional staff with practical insight into federal policies and programs affecting wetlands conservation, coastal restoration, habitat protection, and the management of lands supporting energy infrastructure.

Lunch will be provided by Center Forward during this discussion.

2:45 pm - 4:45 pm	Depart Port Fourchon en route to The Eliza Jane Hotel via shuttle (2 hours). The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
4:45 pm	Arrive at Eliza Jane Hotel.
4:45 pm - 5:30 pm	Policy Roundtable *Cori Kramer, CEO of Center Forward, will lead participants through an examination of the federal government's role in protecting and restoring Louisiana's coast, including investments in wetlands, flood protection, navigation, and resilient energy infrastructure. The briefing will build upon the day's port and conservation visits to explore how coastal land loss affects communities, critical infrastructure, energy production, and navigation. Congressional staff will consider how federal energy, environmental, water-resource, and infrastructure programs can address overlapping economic and environmental priorities.*
5:30 pm	Programming Concludes

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
Breakfast is available in the Couvant Restaurant from 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Business Casual attire *

9:00 am Conference attendees meet in the Holbrook Conference Room.

9:00 am - 10:30 am Louisiana's Energy & Environmental Landscape: A Reporter's Perspective

- *Chelsea Brasted, New Orleans Reporter, Axios (Invited)*
- *Carlie Kollath Wells, New Orleans Reporter, Axios (Invited)*
- *Stephanie Riegel, Business Reporter, NOLA.com (Invited)*
- *Jonah Meadows, Business Reporter, NOLA.com (Invited)*

Louisiana-based journalists will provide an overview of the major energy and environmental issues shaping the state, including energy production, land and water management, coastal resilience, industrial development, and growing electricity demand from AI and data centers. The conversation will explore how these issues affect Louisiana's economy and communities while providing congressional staff with local context for federal energy, environmental, infrastructure, and natural-resource policy.

10:30 am - 11:30 am TC Energy Compressor Discussion

- Alex Oehler, Vice President of External Relations, TC Energy

TC Energy will discuss the infrastructure that supports the safe and reliable transportation of natural gas, using their compressor stations in the New Orleans region as a case study. The session will cover how compressor stations maintain pressure and flow throughout the pipeline network, along with an overview of facility operations, safety protocols, environmental considerations, and system reliability. The discussion will give participants a practical perspective on how midstream infrastructure supports regional

energy demand, informing broader policy conversations around permitting, energy security, infrastructure investment, and the future of America's energy system.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Depart Eliza Jane Hotel en route to Venture Global via shuttle (1 hour).

In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will provide an overview of the Gulf Coast's energy corridor and the role of pipelines, ports, processing facilities, and LNG terminals in moving U.S. natural gas to domestic and international markets. The briefing will examine federal oversight of LNG infrastructure, permitting, energy security, and the relationship between Gulf Coast energy development and surrounding communities.

Boxed lunches served during transit. Lunch provided by Center Forward.

Venture Global Plaquemines Parish Liquefaction and Export Terminal | 20200 Hwy 23, Port Sulphur, LA 70083

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Site Visit & Roundtable Discussion | Venture Global Plaquemines LNG

- Andrew Coombes, Senior Vice President, Project Director, Venture Global LNG

Participants will visit Venture Global's Plaquemines LNG terminal for a firsthand look at the infrastructure used to process, liquefy, store, and export U.S. natural gas. Terminal managers and Venture Global leadership will discuss LNG operations, safety and environmental considerations, infrastructure investment, and the role of Gulf Coast exports in domestic and global energy markets. The visit will help congressional staff understand how federal permitting, environmental review, pipeline policy, and energy-export policy affect major U.S. energy infrastructure projects.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Depart Venture Global Plaquemines LNG en route to The Eliza Jane Hotel via shuttle (1 hour).

In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will lead a discussion with conference participants on energy infrastructure and coastal resilience, covering the relationship between Louisiana's energy infrastructure and coastal environment, including the challenges of protecting pipelines, ports, communities, and industrial facilities from land loss, storms, flooding, and other environmental risks. The discussion will connect the site visit to congressional work involving infrastructure resilience, disaster preparedness, coastal restoration, and federal energy policy.

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

3:30 pm - 6:45 pm Break

6:45 pm - 7:00 pm Depart the Eliza Jane Hotel en route to New Orleans School of Cooking via walking (15 min.)

New Orleans School of Cooking | 524 St Louis St, New Orleans, LA 70130

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Louisiana's Working Coast: Energy, Water & the Seafood Economy

- Elizabeth Leighton, Vice President, New Orleans School of Cooking
- Cori Kramer, CEO, Center Forward

Local experts and operators in the fishing and maritime industries will discuss how Louisiana's coastal waters support commercial agriculture, community stakeholders, energy infrastructure, and other significant industries. The conversation will examine how water quality, coastal restoration, and energy development affect Louisiana's working coast, providing congressional staff with a local perspective on federal water, natural-resource, resilience, and environmental policy.

Participants will then take part in an interactive Cajun and Creole cooking program highlighting Louisiana's seafood, agricultural products, and culinary traditions. The experience will build upon the preceding discussion by demonstrating the connection between

Louisiana's natural resources, coastal environment, and one of the state's signature industries. Moderated Q&A will be led by Center Forward CEO Cori Kramer over dinner with the local fisheries leader.

9:00 pm - 9:15 pm Depart New Orleans School of Cooking en route Eliza Jane Hotel via walking (15 min).

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Thursday, October 15, 2026

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
Breakfast is available in the Couvant Restaurant from 7:00 am to 10:00 am

Business Casual Attire | Closed-Toed Shoes*

8:30 am - 9:00 am Depart the Eliza Jane Hotel en route to the Glass Half Full Processing Facility via shuttle (30 min).

Glass Half Full | 3935 Louisa St., New Orleans, LA 70126

9:00 am - 10:00 am From Waste to Resilience: Glass Recycling & Coastal Restoration

- Franziska Trautmann, Co-Founder & CEO, Glass Half Full
- Max Steitz, Co-Founder, COO & CFO, Glass Half Full

Participants will tour Glass Half Full to learn how locally collected glass is recycled into sand and other materials that can be used for coastal restoration, disaster relief, and construction. Co-founders Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz will discuss the organization's recycling operations and research into the use of recycled glass sand to restore Louisiana's coastline, as well as the opportunities and challenges associated with bringing circular-economy technologies to scale. The visit will provide congressional staff with a practical perspective on federal policies related to recycling, waste management, coastal restoration, environmental innovation, and community resilience.

10:00 am - 10:45 am Depart Glass Half Full en route Marathon Garyville Refinery & Briefing: Refining and America's Fuel Supply via shuttle (45 min).

In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will guide participants through the role refineries play in converting crude oil into transportation fuels and other products used throughout the U.S.

economy. The briefing will examine refinery capacity, transportation infrastructure, environmental regulation, and the importance of Gulf Coast refining to domestic energy security. The discussion will prepare congressional staff for the facility visit and inform their work on federal energy, environmental, and infrastructure policy.

Marathon Garyville Refinery | Marathon Avenue, Garyville, LA 70051

10:45 am - 12:30 pm Lunch and Tour of Marathon Garyville Refinery

- Operations Manager and Chemical Engineering team

Participants will tour Marathon Petroleum's Garyville Refinery to observe how crude oil is processed into gasoline, diesel, aviation and marine fuels, asphalt, consumer plastics, and other petrochemicals. Facility leadership will discuss refinery operations, safety and environmental practices, transportation infrastructure, and the role of large-scale refining capacity in maintaining reliable domestic fuel supplies. The visit will provide congressional staff with firsthand context for federal policies affecting refining, fuel standards, industrial emissions, infrastructure, and U.S. energy security.

Lunch provided by Center Forward.

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Depart Marathon Garyville Refinery en route Chevron Geismar Biorefinery via shuttle (30 min).

In transit, a member of the Center Forward team will provide participants with an overview of renewable biofuels and the federal policies supporting their production and use, including the role of alternative feedstocks and existing fuel transportation infrastructure. Congressional staff will gain context for evaluating federal policies supporting biofuel production and demand ahead of the Chevron refinery tour, including EPA Renewable Fuel Standards, USDA conservation programs, and farm tax credits.

Chevron Geismar Biorefinery | 36187 Louisiana 30 W Geismar, LA 70734

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Tour of Chevron Geismar Biorefinery: Renewable Fuels at Commercial Scale

- John Doucette, Plant Manager, Chevron Geismar Biorefinery

Participants will tour Chevron's Geismar Biorefinery to learn how a range of feedstocks are converted into renewable diesel, renewable propane, and renewable naphtha at commercial scale. Chevron will discuss production technology, feedstock sourcing, infrastructure and distribution, and the role renewable fuels can play in reducing the carbon intensity of transportation. The visit will provide congressional staff with practical insight into federal policies affecting renewable fuels, agricultural and waste feedstocks, and investment in lower-carbon energy technologies.

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Depart Chevron Geismar Biorefinery en route The Eliza Jane Hotel via shuttle (1 hour).

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm Break

6:30 pm - 6:45 pm Depart The Eliza Jane Hotel en route to Galatoire's via walking (15 min.)

Galatoire's | 209 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

6:45 pm - 8:45 pm Closing Dinner & Discussion: Reflections on Louisiana's Energy Future

- Cori Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward

Center Forward CEO Cori Kramer will lead a closing discussion reflecting on the policy issues and perspectives explored throughout the Energy Innovation Conference. Participants will discuss key takeaways from the week's conversations on energy production and

infrastructure, AI and electricity demand, coastal resilience, conservation, and conventional and renewable fuels. The discussion will provide congressional staff an opportunity to compare lessons from the week's site visits and consider how those experiences can inform their work on federal energy, environmental, infrastructure, and sustainability policy.

8:45 pm - 9:00 pm Depart Galatoire's en route to The Eliza Jane Hotel via walking (15 min.)

The Eliza Jane Hotel | 315 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Friday, October 16, 2026

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
Breakfast is available in the Couvant Restaurant from 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Suggested Attire: Business Casual*

8:00 am - 8:30 am CT	Depart The Eliza Jane Hotel en route to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) via shuttle
8:30 am CT	Arrive Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) *Participants will proceed through security and to the designated departure gate.*
10:09 am CT	Group Flight Departs Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) American Airlines Flight AA 5232 | 2 hr 38 min flight time
1:47 pm ET	Group Flight Arrives at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental				
First	**Last**	**Title**	**Affiliation**	**Reason**
Elizabeth	Cooper	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Suhas Subramanyam, a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology who serves on the Energy Subcommittee and the Research and Technology Subcommittee, in addition to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the House Committee on Ethics, Ms. Cooper can provide direct insight into federal energy research and development, including Department of Energy innovation programs, as well as the rapidly growing intersection of electricity demand and data center infrastructure. Rep. Subramanyam's Energy Subcommittee membership gives his office a substantive vantage point on federal energy R&D policy, while his district's position at the heart of the nation's largest data center corridor gives the staffer firsthand, constituent-driven insight into the AI-driven electricity demand issues.
Jalaina	Douglas	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Al Green (D-TX)	As Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Al Green, a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Homeland Security, Ms. Douglas can provide insight into the financial and regulatory frameworks that finance energy infrastructure investment, as well as the security dimensions of protecting the nation's energy infrastructure and supply chains. Rep. Green's committee assignments give his office perspective on both the capital markets that fund energy projects and the homeland security considerations tied to critical infrastructure protection.
Grace	Dunlap	General Counsel	Office of Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)	As General Counsel for Rep. Jake Ellzey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee who serves on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, the Defense Subcommittee, and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee, Ms. Dunlap can contribute to discussions regarding federal funding decisions for the Department of the Interior, EPA, and related agencies that govern energy production on federal lands, environmental permitting, and regulatory implementation. Rep. Ellzey's appropriations role can provide insight on the funding streams that determine agency capacity to process permits, enforce environmental regulations, and implement energy policy, complementing the substantive policymaking discussions the conference will address.
Martha	Gallagher	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Gabe Evans (R-CO)	As Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Gabe Evans, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce who serves on both the Energy Subcommittee and the Environment Subcommittee, in addition to the House Committee on Homeland Security, Ms.Gallagher can provide direct insight into federal energy policy, permitting, and grid reliability issues under the Committee's jurisdiction, as well as the critical infrastructure and cybersecurity considerations that intersect with energy security. Rep. Evans's committee assignments will allow for substantive contributions to discussions regarding the energy policymaking process and the security dimension of energy infrastructure.

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Emily	Hartshorn	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM)	As Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Gabe Vasquez, a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Armed Services, Ms. Hartshorn can speak to the intersection of federal lands management, conservation policy, and energy production on public lands. New Mexico's 2nd District includes a significant portion of the Permian Basin, one of the nation's most productive oil and gas regions. Rep. Vasquez's professional background as a former Deputy State Director for The Wilderness Society, combined with his committee work on conservation and natural resource issues, positions his office to substantively contribute to discussions surrounding federal land-use, conservation, and environmental policy intersect with energy economy.
Ja'nique	Jules	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jim Himes, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, Ms. Jules is positioned to contribute to discussions regarding financial markets and capital investment frameworks that finance energy infrastructure, as well as the intelligence and national security dimensions of energy security, including threats to critical energy infrastructure and supply chains. Rep. Himes's committee assignments give his office insight on both the financial conditions shaping energy investment and the national security considerations tied to energy infrastructure resilience.
Matthew	McColloch	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)	As Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Kat Cammack, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce who serves on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, and the Health Subcommittee, in addition to the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. McColloch can provide direct insight into federal energy policy under the Committee's broad jurisdiction, as well as the intersection of energy costs, rural infrastructure, and agricultural production. Rep. Cammack's committee membership will provide for direct insight on the full range of energy policymaking that moves through Energy and Commerce, complemented by her Agriculture Committee role addressing how energy and infrastructure costs affect rural producers and communities.
Zach	Monroe	Legislative Director	Office of Rep. Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA)	As Legislative Director for Rep. Troy Carter, a member of the Louisiana delegation who serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, including the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, the Environment Subcommittee, and the Health Subcommittee, in addition to the House Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. Monroe can provide direct insight into federal energy policy, environmental regulation, and infrastructure resilience under the Committee's jurisdiction, informed by Committee on Energy and Commerce's role vetting bills dealing with the expansion of energy production. Rep. Carter's committee role gives his office a will provide perspective on the substantive energy policymaking process, and because his district encompasses New Orleans and the surrounding River Parishes where this conference is being held, the staffer brings a uniquely grounded, constituent-level understanding of local ports, refineries, and coastal infrastructure.

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Tyler	Mortier	Legislative Director	Office of Rep. John Joyce (R-PA)	As Legislative Director for Rep. John Joyce, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce who also serves on the Environment Subcommittee, the Health Subcommittee, and chairs the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, Mr. Mortier can speak to federal energy policy, environmental regulation, and the oversight function that shapes implementation of energy law, informed by Rep. Joyce's leadership role within the full Committee. Rep. Joyce's Vice Chairmanship gives his office a uniquely broad vantage point across the Committee's energy jurisdiction, and his stated legislative priority of supporting domestic energy production gives the staffer a direct basis for engaging with the conference's core subject matter.
Kaitlyn	Mullen	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)	As Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Julia Letlow, a member of the House Appropriations Committee who serves on both the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee, Ms. Mullen can provide direct insight into federal funding decisions for rural energy infrastructure, USDA rural development programs that support grid modernization and broadband-energy convergence projects, and the workforce development programs that underpin the energy sector's skilled labor pipeline. Rep. Letlow's dual appropriations subcommittee assignments give her office a unique perspective on both the rural infrastructure funding streams and the workforce pipeline that determine whether energy investments translate into reliable service and local jobs in the host region.
Ryan	Passas	Legislative Director	Office of Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)	As Legislative Director for Rep. Veronica Escobar, a member of the House Appropriations Committee who serves on the Homeland Security Subcommittee, Ms. Passas distinctive perspective on how federal border security infrastructure and staffing intersect with cross-border energy trade and pipeline infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border, an issue of direct relevance to El Paso's role in the binational energy corridor. Rep. Escobar's appropriations role will allow for substantive contributions to discussions regarding federal funding and infrastructure decisions that affect the border region's capacity to support energy trade, transmission, and cross-border coordination with Mexico.
Kyle	Pierre	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Cleo Fields (D-LA)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Cleo Fields, a member of the Louisiana delegation who serves on the House Capital Markets Subcommittee and the Financial Institutions Subcommittee, Mr. Pierre can provide insight into the capital markets, project financing, and lending frameworks that underpin investment in energy infrastructure, including how banking and securities regulation affects the flow of capital to energy projects. Rep. Fields's committee assignments allow for perspective on the financial and regulatory conditions that determine whether energy infrastructure investment is available and affordable for producers, utilities, and communities.

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Owen	Rosenberg	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Andrew Garbarino, Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security who also serves on the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. Rosenberg can provide direct insight into federal oversight of energy grid cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection, as well as the financial and regulatory frameworks that govern investment in energy infrastructure resilience. Rep. Garbarino's chairmanship gives his office a unique vantage point on how DHS and CISA approach threats to the energy sector, from grid cyberattacks to physical infrastructure vulnerabilities, and how that oversight intersects with the private capital and insurance markets that finance energy infrastructure hardening and modernization.
Rahmon	Ross	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Rep. Jen McClellan (D-VA)	As Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Jennifer McClellan, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. Ross can speak to federal energy policy under the Committee's jurisdiction, including electricity markets, grid reliability, and emerging technology issues that intersect with energy infrastructure, informed by the Committee's broad authority as the oldest standing committee in the House with jurisdiction spanning energy, telecommunications, and commerce. Rep. McClellan's committee membership gives her office a direct insight on the full range of energy policymaking that moves through Energy and Commerce.
Caroline	Sagristano	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Joe Courtney, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces and a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, Ms. Sagristano can speak on the defense and workforce dimensions of the energy sector, including how naval nuclear propulsion programs and the submarine industrial base intersect with civilian energy expertise, and how federal workforce development programs support the skilled trades pipeline that energy infrastructure projects depend on. Rep. Courtney's committee assignments position Ms. Sagristano to contribute a unique perspective on the specialized nuclear and technical workforce that underlies both national defense and energy sector needs, complementing the energy policy discussions the conference will address.
Gabrielle	Sheitelman	Deputy Chief of Staff	Office of Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)	As Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Juan Ciscomani, Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Ms. Sheitelman can provide insight into the border security and binational infrastructure dimensions of energy issues along the U.S.-Mexico border, an area of direct relevance to Southern Arizona's cross-border energy trade and water-energy resource management with Sonora, Mexico. Rep. Ciscomani's prior service as Vice Chair of the Arizona-Mexico Commission and his focus on water resources in Arizona's 6th District give his office genuine subject-matter familiarity with the binational infrastructure and resource issues, including solar development, grid interconnection, and Colorado River water-energy tradeoffs.

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Spencer	Talley	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Julie Fedorchak, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce who serves on the Energy Subcommittee, the Environment Subcommittee, and the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Mr. Talley can provide valuable insight into federal energy policy, grid reliability, and regulatory issues under the Committee's jurisdiction, informed by Rep. Fedorchak's twelve years of firsthand experience as a state utility regulator. Rep. Fedorchak's committee assignments and prior service as a Public Service Commissioner will allow for substantive contributions in discussions on both the federal policymaking process and the practical regulatory realities facing energy producers and utilities.
Maxwell	Wright	Legislative Assistant	Office of Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)	As Legislative Assistant for Rep. Ken Calvert, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and a senior member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, Mr. Wright is positioned to speak substantively about federal funding decisions for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as the power marketing administrations that deliver electricity across the western United States. Rep. Calvert's subcommittee role will allow for contributions to discussions regarding the appropriations process that funds federal energy programs, nuclear security, and grid infrastructure.
Tuley	Wright	Staff Director	House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy	As Policy Director for the Minority Staff of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, Mr. Wright holds direct responsibility for the federal legislative and oversight agenda governing electricity markets, grid reliability, nuclear energy, oil and gas policy, and emerging energy technologies. His attendance offers the network of congressional staff, agency officials, and industry stakeholders a direct line into the Minority's legislative and oversight priorities, providing firsthand insight into how energy policy questions are being weighed for upcoming hearings, markups, and member briefings, and grounding the discussion in the practical realities of moving energy legislation through committee.
Mark	Zientek	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Rep. Teresa Leger-Fernandez (D-NM)	As Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Leger Fernández, a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources who serves on the Federal Lands Subcommittee and the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples and Insular Affairs, of which she is Ranking Member, in addition to the House Rules Committee, Mr. Zientek can provide direct insight into federal oil, gas, and renewable energy leasing and permitting on public lands. Rep. Leger Fernández represents a district which includes significant federal and tribal lands as well as portions of the state's energy-producing regions. Mr. Zientek is positioned to substatively contribute to discussions regarding public-lands energy policy debates, including leasing reform and permitting timelines, that shape both federal revenue and economic interests.

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12. Sponsor’s interest in the subject matter and role in organizing the trip: Center Forward’s Energy Innovation Conference is being convened to bring together a bipartisan group of senior legislative staffers from the House of Representatives to discuss how federal permitting, infrastructure, and environmental policy shape offshore energy development, LNG exports, refining, renewable fuels, coastal resilience, and grid reliability amid rising electricity demand. Center Forward’s organizational mission is to provide pragmatic offices with 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 more 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 include federal permitting, environmental review, infrastructure-investment policy, offshore energy development, LNG export authorization, pipeline and refinery operations, biofuel/renewable-fuel standards, coastal wetlands restoration and flood-protection funding, and grid reliability amid rising AI/data-center electricity demand. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices, and will speak with energy industry executives and government-affairs staff, port authority leadership, conservation and nonprofit leaders, local journalists covering energy and environmental issues, and state government officials.				
15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: New Orleans was selected as the destination for this staff delegation to provide participants with firsthand, on-the-ground exposure to nearly every stage of the U.S. energy supply chain, from offshore production and LNG export terminals to refining, biofuels, and coastal infrastructure. The region's unique concentration of ports, pipelines, refineries, and emerging renewable-fuel facilities, set against one of the nation's most consequential coastal resilience challenges, makes it a living case study in how federal permitting, environmental, and infrastructure policy plays out on the ground. Throughout the visit, attendees will see how energy production, environmental stewardship, and community and economic interests intersect in practice, gaining firsthand insight to inform their work on federal energy, environmental, and infrastructure policy.				
16. Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is central to New Orleans and will allow for easy transportation to and from site visits.				