# 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: Grace Sturtewagen
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/20/2026 Return: 10/22/2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Lombard, IL Destination: Tinley Park, IL Return City: Lombard, IL
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: GROWMARK, IL Corn, IL Soybean
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Meetings were informational and all connected to Agricultural in some way or another. We toured farms, bio diesel facilities, Ag retailers, and visited two consulates.
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:** Grace Sturtewagen Digitally signed by Grace Sturtewagen Date: 2026.10.30 15:08:47 -05'00' **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:** Eric Sorensen **Date:** 11-5-2026

**Signature of Supervising Member:** Eric Sorensen

*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: GROWMARK, Inc.
   Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board; Illinois Corn Marketing Board
2. Travel Destination(s): Tinley Park, IL
3. Date of Departure: 10/20/2026 Date of Return: 10/22/2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Grace Elizabeth Sturtewagan & Johnathan Williams
   ***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 | $476.23 | $430.92 | $141.06 | 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:** Ashley McClintock **Date:** 10/29/26

**Name:** Ashley McClintock **Title:** EVP of Human Resources and Corporate Services

**Organization:** GROWMARK, Inc.

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

**Address:** 1705 Towanda Ave

**Telephone:** (815) 644-1371 **Email:** ckaeb@growmark.com

***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: Grace Sturtewagen

**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: Grace Sturtewagen Digitally signed by Grace Sturtewagen Date: 2026.09.16 14:55:44 -05'00'

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Eric Sorensen

Office Address: 423 17th Street, Suite 201, Rock Island, IL 61201

Telephone Number: (309) 786-3406

Email Address of Contact Person: grace.sturtewagen@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: Grace Sturtewagen

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Growmark, Inc. ; Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board; Illinois Corn Marketing Board

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Tinley Park, IL

4. a. Date of Departure: 10/20/2026 Date of Return: 10/22/2026

   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 the district Agricultural staffer this trip provides me with the opportunity to learn more about the industry. Much of my job duties involve staying up to date and knowledgeable on all things agricultural which this trip would help with greatly. My current job title is Constituent Services Representative and Agricultural Outreach Representative.

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:** 9/16/26

# 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:

   GROWMARK, Inc.

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: Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board; Illinois Corn Marketing Board

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): Attendee list attached. See attached

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

6. Date of Departure: 10/20/2026 Date of Return: 10/22/2026

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Tinley Park, IL
   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:
   Please 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): _____
         $50 per day
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
         The Chicago Metro region has agriculture markets and agriculture production in a concentrated area.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: EVEN Hotel City: Tinley Park, IL Cost Per Night: $151
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Conveniently located between the final tour stop the night before and the first stop the next morning.
   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<br>☒ Good Faith Estimates | Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant | Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant | Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $759 | $302 | $150 |
| 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 | N/A | |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | 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: Ashley McClintock Date: 8/19/2026

Name: Ashley McClintock Title: EVP of Human Resources and Corporate Services

Organization: GROWMARK, Inc.

Address: 1705 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701

Email: Kebner@growmark.com Telephone: (815) 641-3714

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 14, 2026

Ms. Grace Sturtewagen
Office of the Honorable Eric Sorensen
423 17th Street , Ste 201
Rock Island, IL 61201

Dear Ms. Sturtewagen:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Tinley Park, Illinois, scheduled for October 20 to 22, 2026, sponsored by Growmark, Inc., Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Board, and Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

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:tn

# 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: Growmark, Inc.
2. Name of your organization: Illinois Corn Marketing Board
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: Tinley Park, IL on Date: October 20-22, 2026 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: Jon Hurst Digitally signed by Jon Hurst Date: 2026.08.20 13:04:51 -05'00' Date: 8/20/2026

Name: Jon Hurst Title: Associate Director of Public Policy

Organization: Illinois Corn Marketing Board

Address: 14171 Carole Dr, Bloomington, IL

Telephone: 309-827-0912 Email: jhurst@ilcorn.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*

# 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: Growmark, Inc.
2. Name of your organization: IL Soybean Check-Off Board
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: Tinley Park, IL on Date: October 20, 21, & 22 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: David Kubik Date: 08/17/2026

Name: David Kubik Title: Biofuels & Trade Policy Manager

Organization: IL Soybean Check-Off Board

Address: 1108 Trinity Lane, Bloomington, IL 61704

Telephone: (630) 361-5778 Email: david.kubik@ilsoy.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*

**2026 Congressional Staff Tour**

**AGENDA**

**October 20-22, 2026**

**Tuesday, October 20**

| Time | Location | Topic & Speaker | District |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10:15 am<br><br><br>End Time<br>10:35 am | **Midway International Airport**<br>5700 S Cicero Ave<br>Chicago, IL 60638 | *Inbound flight option: Southwest Flight #1504. Departs DCA 9:10 am, arrives MDW 10:10 am*<br><br>*For Grace Sturtewagen and Johnathan Williams: Arrive via personal vehicle*<br><br>Box lunch en route to Canadian consulate | District 4-<br>Congressman<br>Chuy Garcia |
| 11:00 am<br><br><br><br>End Time<br>12:00 pm | **Canadian Consulate**<br>180 N Stetson Ave #2400,<br>Chicago, IL 60601<br><br>Times will have to be adjusted<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Discussion with consulate officials focused on agricultural trade priorities and opportunities amid ongoing implementation of the USMCA.<br><br>*Speakers: Colleen Duke, Senior Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Services Officer* | District 7-<br>Congressman<br>Danny Davis |
| 12:30 pm<br><br><br>End Time<br>1:00 pm | **Mexican Consulate**<br>204 S Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL 60607<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Discussion with consulate officials focused on agricultural trade priorities and opportunities amid ongoing implementation of the USMCA.<br><br>*Speakers: Gabriel Mendoza Lopez, Consul for Economic and Cultural Affairs* | District 7-<br>Congressman<br>Danny Davis |
| 1:50 pm<br><br><br><br>3:00 pm | **Food Export Midwest**<br>29 N Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL Suite 1000 60606<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Discussion with the CEO of how his association helps regional companies sell food and agricultural products to international markets.<br><br>*Speaker: Brendan Wilson, CEO* | District 7-<br>Congressman<br>Danny Davis |
| 4:15 pm<br><br><br>End Time<br>6:45 pm | **Dinner – Gould Farm**<br>49W924 Perry Rd, Maple Park, IL 60151<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Tour of a family farming operation, including its land, equipment, and agricultural products.<br><br>*Speaker: Chris Gould, Owner of Gould Farm* | District 11-<br>Congressman<br>Bill Foster |
| 8:00 pm | **Hotel –**<br>18501 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL, 60477 | | District 1-<br>Congressman<br>Jonathan<br>Jackson |

**Wednesday, October 21**

| Time | Location | Topic & Speaker | District |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00 am | **Depart hotel**<br>18501 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL, 60477 | | District 1- Congressman Jonathan Jackson |
| 9:15 am<br><br>End Time 11:15 am | **Incobrasa Industries**<br>540 US-24<br>Gilman, IL 60938<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Tour of a biodiesel manufacturing facility and discussion on the process of converting soybeans into sustainable, renewable fuels.<br><br>*Speaker: Kerry Fogarty- Quality Control Manager at Incobrasa* | District 2- Congresswoman Robin Kelly |
| 11:30 am<br><br>End Time 12:15 pm | **GROWMARK Crop Nutrients Rail Terminal**<br>1643 N US Hwy 45<br>Gilman, IL 60938<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Visit to a fertilizer rail terminal highlighting the logistics and distribution of dry fertilizer products throughout the agricultural supply chain.<br><br>*Speaker- Bill Romshek- General Manager of Heritage FS* | District 2- Congresswoman Robin Kelly |
| 12:20 pm<br><br>End Time 1:30 pm | **Heritage FS**<br>1381 S Crescent St, Gilman, IL 60938<br><br>***Confirmed***<br>**Bill should be ordering lunch** | Working lunch with the location manager, who will provide an overview of the member company's operations and local impact.<br><br>*Speaker- Bill Romshek- General Manager of Heritage FS* | District 2- Congresswoman Robin Kelly |
| 2:15 pm<br><br>End Time 3:30 pm | **One Earth Energy**<br>202 N. Jordan Dr.,<br>Gibson City, IL 60936<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Tour of a large-scale agricultural manufacturing facility showcasing the processing of corn into fuel-grade ethanol, distillers grains, and corn oil.<br><br>*Speaker- Steve Kelly- CEO of One Earth Energy* | District 16- Congressman Darin LaHood |
| 4:45 pm<br><br>End Time 6:30 pm | **Farm Dinner –O'Connor Grain Farms**<br>2995 W 3500S Rd Kankakee, IL 60901<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Dinner on a working farm. Discussing the farm's participation in legislature visits, the impact of the farm bill, and general production agriculture issues.<br><br>*Speakers: Jeff and Gina O'Connor- Owner of O'Connor Farms* | District 2- Congresswoman Robin Kelly |
| 7:15 pm | **Hotel –**<br>18501 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL, 60477 | | District 1- Congressman Jonathan Jackson |

**Thursday, October 22**

| Time | Location | Topic & Speaker | District |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9:00 am | **Depart hotel**<br>18501 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL, 60477 | | District 1- Congressman Jonathan Jackson |
| 10:00 am<br><br>End Time 11:00 am | **GRAINCO FS**<br>11230 IL-47, Morris, IL 60450<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Visit to an FS facility featuring multiple agronomy operations, including bulk fertilizer storage, chemical handling facilities, and liquid fertilizer tanks.<br><br>*Speaker- Alan Drake- General Manager of GRAINCO FS* | District 16- Congressman Darin LaHood |
| 12:00 pm<br><br>End Time 1:30 pm | **Lockport Lock & Dam**<br>2502 Channel Rd, Lockport, IL 60441<br><br>***Confirmed*** | Learn about the importance of locks and dams and commerce using river system.<br><br>*Speaker- Michael Walsh, Operations Manager; Waterways Project Office* | District 14- Congresswoman Lauren Underwood |
| 2:45 pm<br><br>End Time 3:00 pm | **Midway International Airport** 5700 S Cicero Ave Chicago, IL 60638 | *Outbound flight option for all attendees unless otherwise noted: Southwest Flight #3391. Departs MDW 5:00 pm, arrives DCA 7:50 pm*<br><br>*For Chester Pelsang: Southwest flight #4699. Departs MDW 5:50 pm, arrives STL 7:00 pm*<br><br>*For Grace Sturtewagen and Johnathan Williams: Depart to drive home in personal vehicle* | District 4- Congressman Chuy Garcia |

12. GROWMARK is a farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Illinois with an interest in agricultural retail operations, nutrient stewardship and transportation. GROWMARK's role in organizing and/or conducting the trip includes agenda development, securing travel arrangements (airfare, hotels), and identifying and securing tour locations.

The Illinois Corn Marketing Board leads research, education, and promotion efforts on behalf of corn grown in Illinois. They have interest in issues of general agriculture, conservation, trade, renewable energy, consumer uses of corn-based products, and transportation. The Illinois Corn Marketing Board's role is securing tour locations, arranging a farm dinner, and making other meal arrangements for attendees.

The Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board leads promotion, research, and education efforts on behalf of soybeans grown in Illinois. They have interest in issues of general agriculture, conservation, trade, renewable energy, consumer uses of soy-based products, and transportation. - outline/logistics for tour and communication; retail operations, nutrient stewardship, transportation. The Illinois Soybean Check-Off Board's role is securing tour locations, arranging a farm dinner, securing ground transportation, and making other meal arrangements for attendees.

| Name | Employer/Office | Title | Reason for Invitation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Faith Tuttle | Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-15) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Christopher Clark Ogilvie | U.S. House Committee on Agriculture | Deputy Staff Director | Involvment in House Agriculture Committee |
| Jaqlyn Alderete | Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-9) | Senior Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| John Ryan Rodriguez | Rep. Monica De La Cruz (TX-15) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Mackenzi Beth Matthews | Rep. Nikki Budzinski (IL-13) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Adrian Calderon | Rep Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04) | District Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Grace Sturtewagen | Rep. Eric Sorensen (IL-17) | Caseworker | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Johnathan Williams | Rep. Nikki Budzinski (IL-13) | Caseworker | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| William Theodore Wadsworth III | Rep. Mary Miller (IL-15) | Chief of Staff | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Aleksi Knepp | U.S. House Committee on Agriculture | Senior Policy Analyst | Involvment in House Agriculture Committee |
| Chester Arthur Pelsang IV | Rep. Mary Miller (IL-15) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Adison Cook | Rep. Jonathan Jackson (IL-1) | Legislative Aide | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Brandon DiFulvio | Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-2) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Cecilia Vaughn-Guy | Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-2) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Marina Sangit | Rep. Delia Ramirez (IL-3) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Kody Keckler | Rep. Mike Quigley (IL-5) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Nikki Roy | Rep. Sean Casten (IL-6) | Energy Policy Advisor | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Gil Thompson | Rep. Brad Schneider (IL-10) | Senior Advisor | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Cody Hollerich | Rep. Bill Foster (IL-11) | Senior Policy Advisor | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Lauren Kaldenberg | Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Yusuf Nekzad | Rep. Nikki Budzinski (IL-13) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Kent Ring | Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Sam Jockisch | Rep. Darin LaHood (IL-16) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Nadia Cortez | Rep Erin Sorensen (IL-17) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Bubba White | Rep. David Rouzer (NC-7) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Sara Hasselbring | Rep. Jim Baird (IN-4) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| John Altendorf | Rep. Brad Finstad (MN-1) | Deputy Chief of Staff | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| John Rodriguez | Rep. Monica De La Cruz (TX-15) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Jackie Bossman | Rep. Zach Nunn (IA-3) | Deputy Chief of Staff | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Clark Agnew | Rep. Derrick Van Orden (WI-3) | Senior Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Kalyn Swihart | Rep. Tony Wied (WI-8) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Faith Dynneson | Rep. Mark Messmer (IN-8) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Julia Rossman | Rep. Shontel Brown (OH-11) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Fabiana Mendez | Rep. Eugene Vindman (VA-7) | Senior Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Brian Duckworth | Rep. John Mannion (NY-22) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Agriculture Committee |
| Kristen Batstone | U.S. House Committee on Agriculture | Legislative Assistant | Involvment in House Agriculture Committee |
| Kylie Gregory | U.S. House Committee on Agriculture | Legislative Assistant | Involvment in House Agriculture Committee |
| John Hendrix | U.S. House Committee on Agriculture | Legislative Assistant | Involvment in House Agriculture Committee |
| Patrick Schilling | Rep. Scott Perry (PA-10) | Legislative Director | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee |
| Jeff Coulter | Rep. Bob Onder (MO-3) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee |
| Ryan Blake | Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL) | Legislative Correspondant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member |
| Thomas Liepold | Senate Ag Committee | Senior Professional Staff Member | Involvment in Senate Ag Committeee |
| Eli Harberts | Sen. Grassley (IA) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the Senate Agriculture Committee |
| Kurtis Miller | Sen. Fetterman (PA) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the Senate Agriculture Committee |
| Ashlynne Beninga | Sen. Thune (SD) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the Senate Agriculture Committee |
| Bennett Abrams | Sen. Slotkin (MI) | Legislative Assistant | Involvement in agriculture, energy, or transportation portfolio for a member serving on the Senate Agriculture Committee |