Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2019 NOV -6 AM 10: 12

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The Everglades Foundation, Inc.

Travel date(s): October 10-11, 2019

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____
Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☒ Good Faith Estimate ☐ Actual Amount	$162.5 (shuttle bus)	$151.42	$65.59	$54.50 (airboat)

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☐ Actual Amount	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See* Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attached itinerary.

11·5·19 — *(Date)*
Eleni Valanos — *(Printed name of traveler)*
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

11·5·19
(Date)
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

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1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): The Everglades Foundation, Inc.

2. Description of the trip: An intensive educational trip to the Greater Everglades ecosystem

3. Dates of travel: October 10th - 11th 2019

4. Place of travel: Miami, FL

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Eleni Valanos, Legislative Assistant

6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:

   ☐ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

   – OR –

   ☒ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) *(see question 9)*.

7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

   – AND –

   ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

8. I *certify* that:

   ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.

   – AND –

   ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**
I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

OR

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

OR

☒ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**
If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:
The Everglades Foundation, Inc. is soley responsible for the planning and funding of this trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:
The Everglades Foundation, Inc. is a charitable organization dedicated to educating the public about Social and economic value of the Greater Everglades ecosystem. The purpose of the trip is to infors congressional staff about its irreplaceable environmental and economic value.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:
The Everglades Foundation has hosted 2 trips in 2016 and one in 2017.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

The Everglades Foundation, Inc. works to protect the Everglades through educational briefings, panels, tours, and conferences about our scientific and policy expertise.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	$140	$140	$66	$0

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

The trip involved events arranged and organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip involves visits to Everglades National Park located near Miami, Florida.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Miami Airport Marriott in Miami, Florida. 1201 NW, S Le Jeune Rd, Miami, FL 33126

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

It is located near the departure airport.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The lodging at the Miami Airport Marriott is equal to the Federal Government lodging per diem

M&IE total is equal to the M&IE per diem.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Ground transportation in shuttle bus will be provided. The airboat trip costs $50 per person and is noted as a transportation expense in question 16.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: _____

Name and Title: Eric Eikenberg, CEO

Name of Organization: The Everglades Foundation, Inc.

Address: 18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Telephone Number: 305-251-0001

Fax Number: 305-251-0039

E-mail Address: eric@evergladesfoundation.org

The Everglades Foundation
Congressional Educational Briefings and Site Visits
October 10th – 11th, 2019

Overview:

This is an intensive one-day trip to the greater Everglades ecosystem for key congressional staff handling environmental issues affecting this region. Currently, the federal government, working with the State of Florida, is undertaking the world's largest ecosystem restoration project. One of the primary objectives is to benefit federally owned or managed lands, including Everglades National Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A wide range of federal agencies have jurisdiction over various components of this initiative, including: the Department of Interior, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The purpose of these briefings and the accompanying site visits to federal lands and waters is to provide an overview of the progress made and the future restoration needs of federal holdings like Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.

ITINERARY

Thursday, October 10th, 2019:

9:38 am Eleni Valanos joins privately sponsored travel.

10:00 am Travel to S356 pump along Tamiami Trail. Continental Breakfast and briefing en route. *Everglades Restoration 101: The Economics of Everglades Restoration and An Introduction to Current Federal Issues Affecting the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Geoff Mullins and Dr. Kristie Wendelberger will discuss the costs of restoration going forward. They will also go over how Congress can help in moving restoration forward and what will happen to the system and Florida's economy without a successful restoration.*

Additional Participants:
Geoff Mullins, The Everglades Foundation
Dr. Kristie Wendelberger, The Everglades Foundation

10:30 am Arrive at S356 pump
Briefing: *Successful restoration projects: Florida's commitment to Everglades Restoration. Kim Taplin will speak about completed projects that are crucial to the success of Everglades Restoration. She will cover the following topics: impacts of raising Tamiami Trail on the northern Water Conservation Areas, the instillation of the S356 pump station, and increasing the capacity of the S333 gate.*

Additional Participants:
Kim Taplin, US Army Corps of Engineers
Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida
Dr. Melissa Abdo, National Parks Conservation Association
Geoff Mullins, The Everglades Foundation
Dr. Kristie Wendelberger, The Everglades Foundation

11:30 pm Depart S356 pump, proceed to airboat dock

11:50 pm Arrive at airboat dock located on Tamiami Trail.
Briefings: *The health of the Water Conservation Areas and effects of water management on them.* *Dr. Kristie Wendelberger will discuss the ecology of the Everglades system. They will share how water management has impacted the Water Conservation Areas and what Everglades Restoration will do to improve it.*

12:00 pm Board airboat for a tour of Water Conservation Area 3a.
Occasional stops and discussion: *Everglades ecology and ecosystem function.*
Stop at a tree island for lunch.
Continued briefing: *Water Conservation Area 3a and effects of water management on the area.* *Dr. Kristie Wendelberger will discuss the ecology of the Everglades system. She will share how water management has impacted the Water Conservation Areas and what Everglades Restoration will do to improve it.*

Additional Participants:
Kim Taplin, US Army Corps of Engineers
Adam Gelber, U.S. Department of the Interior
Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida
Dr. Melissa Abdo, National Parks Conservation Association
Shannon Estenoz, The Everglades Foundation
Geoff Mullins, The Everglades Foundation
Dr. Kristie Wendelberger, The Everglades Foundation

2:00 pm Return to dock and depart for Shark Valley, Everglades National Park.

2:15 pm Arrive at Shark Valley, Everglades National Park.
Briefing and walk along Shark Valley trail: *Discussion of Modified Water Deliveries: Tamiami Trail Bridge Project and Next Steps and the Central Everglades Project.* *Bob Johnson will discuss the improvements that have come to the park from the Modified Waters Deliveries project. He will also go over the benefits of the Tamiami Trail Bridge Project Next Steps and the Central Everglades Project to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.*

Additional Participants:
Bob Johnson, Everglades National Park
Adam Gelber, U.S. Department of the Interior
Shannon Estenoz, The Everglades Foundation
Geoff Mullins, The Everglades Foundation
Dr. Kristie Wendelberger, The Everglades Foundation

3:30 pm Return to van and depart for hotel

4:30 pm Arrive and check in to Miami Airport Marriott, 1201 NW LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126

6:30 pm Depart hotel for dinner briefing

7:00 pm Dinner briefing, Rincon Argentino, 2345 Douglas Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33145: *Building on 2018 Everglades Restoration Progress and Future Everglades Restoration Goals. Geoff Mullins will discuss the next steps to Everglades restoration. They will go over the project goals for the next decade that will bring the restoration project to a new level, reconnect Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, project the water supply for south Florida, and the economy of the State.*

Additional Participants:
The Everglades Foundation Board Members
Geoff Mullins, The Everglades Foundation
Dr. Kristie Wendelberger, The Everglades Foundation

9:00 pm Eleni Valanos departs privately sponsored travel.

Valanos, Eleni (Rubio)

From: Geoffrey Mullins <gmullins@evergladesfoundation.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Valanos, Eleni (Rubio)
Subject: Fwd: Last week to RSVP for your tour of America's Everglades

Hello Eleni -

I hope your August recess has been a pleasant one. I wanted to reach out personally and flag this invitation for you to join us for our annual tour. We would be thrilled to have the Senator's office represented at this important gathering. As you are already keenly aware, it's a great opportunity to gain a first person understanding of some of the issues affecting the Everglades and how restoration is playing out on the ground.

Happy to answer any questions you might have about this. Don't worry about the date that's printed on the invite below...if you are interested, just let me know and we can get you signed up into next week.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

Geoff Mullins

- Forwarded message -
From: **The Everglades Foundation** <kwendelberger@evergladesfoundation.org>
Date: Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 10:52 AM
Subject: Last week to RSVP for your tour of America's Everglades
To: <gmullins@evergladesfoundation.org>

View this email in your browser

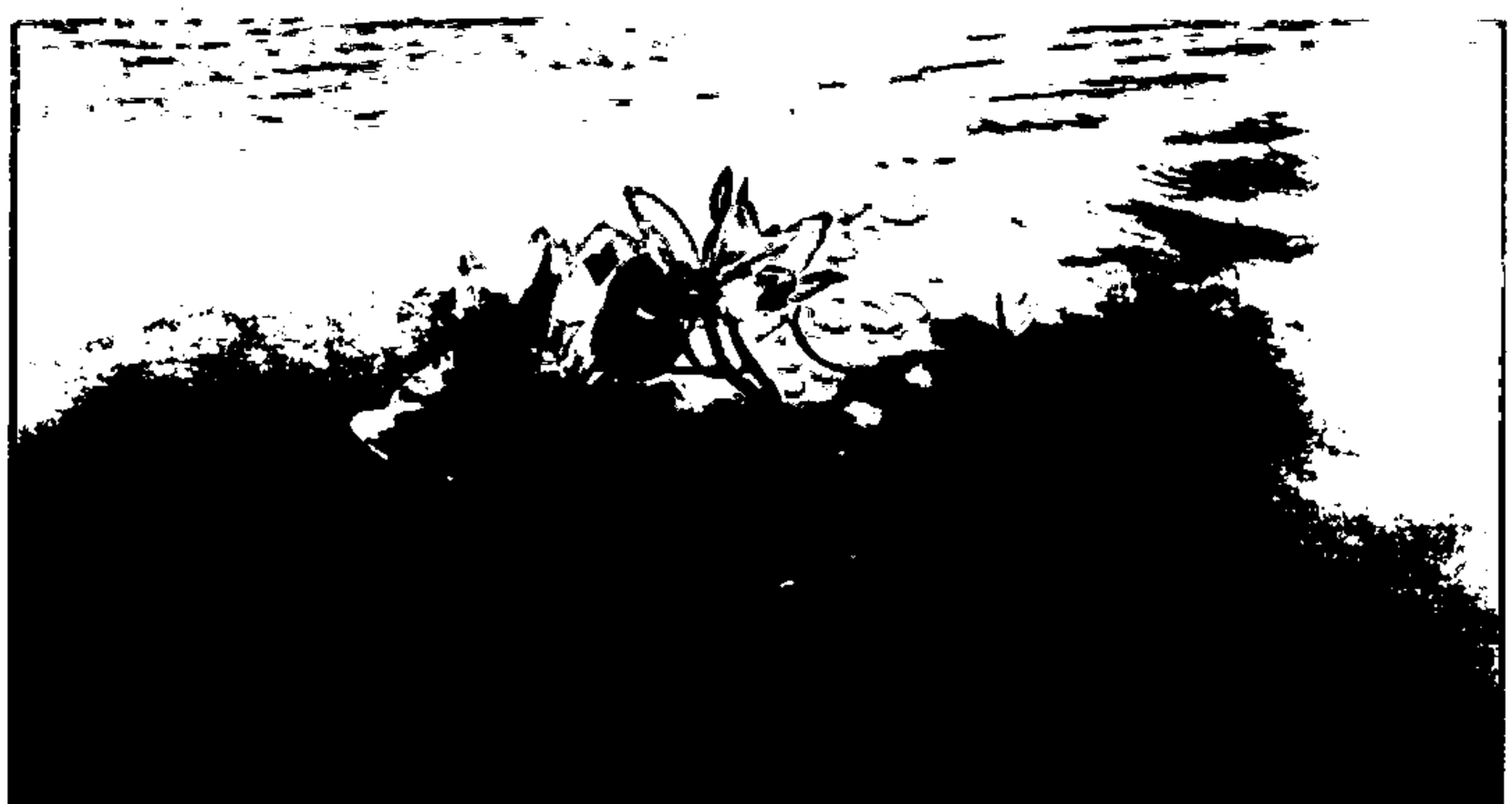
FOUNDATION

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

EXPERIENCE
AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

JOIN US FROM

OCT • 9-12 • 2019

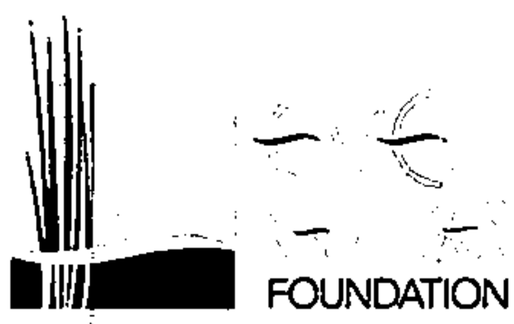


The trip will include tours, briefings and site visits throughout the greater Everglades ecosystem. Please be

All costs associated with the trip (i.e. airfare, meals, transportation, lodging) will be covered by The Everglades Foundation

Geoffrey S. Mullins
Director of Policy and Partnerships
The Everglades Foundation
18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
Office: 305.251.0001
Cell: 703.615.3330
evergladesfoundation.org

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | Instagram



Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Eleni Valanos

Employing Office/Committee: U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The Everglades Foundation, Inc.

Travel date(s): October 9-11, 2019

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Miami, Florida

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

Eleni Valanos works on issues related to Everglades restoration, including Army Corps of Engineers, environment, natural resources and related appropriations for Senator Marco Rubio (FL). This educational trip will provide Eleni with firsthand knowledge of the greater Everglades ecosystem which will assist in efforts to create good public policy on behalf of the constituents of Florida.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

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

9.9.19
(Date)

(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Marco Rubio *(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)* hereby authorize Eleni Valanos *(Print Traveler's Name)*

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. *(signify "yes" by checking box)* ☐

9.9.19
(Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15)

Form RE-1