Date/Time Stamp:

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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 Foundation for Rural Service

Travel date(s): August 16-19, 2022

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	$787.63	$438	$142.75	none

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

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

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

See attachment.

Note: the itinerary did not change from the originally submitted version.

9/19/2022 (*Date*) Rachel Lang (*Printed name of traveler*) Rachel Lang (*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.

9/19/2022 (*Date*) Ron Wyden (*Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer*)

(Revised 1/3/11) **Form RE-2**

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: Rachel Iris Lang

Employing Office/Committee: U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

Travel date(s): August 16 - 19, 2022

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

Destination(s): Burlington, Warren, Waitsfield, Bristol, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Richmond, and Bolton, VT

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

Rachel leads Senator Wyden's telecommunications policy portfolio, working to expand rural broadband access throughout the state of Oregon. This trip will showcase the benefits and challenges of providing broadband access in different communities in rural America, and how best the federal government can help local communities and providers take advantage of opportunities. It will highlight the wide variety of geographical challenges to deploying broadband, and provide on-the-ground examples of how communities are being served.

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:

7/14/2022
(Date)

Rachel Lang
(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, Ron Wyden hereby authorize Rachel Iris Lang
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) *(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)* ☐

7/14/2022
(Date)

Ron Wyden
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15)

Form RE-1

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.

---

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

2. Description of the trip: Travel throughout Vermont to visit local broadband providers and users, and highlight the geographic and financial challenges of providing rural broadband services.

3. Dates of travel: August 16 - 19, 2022

4. Place of travel: Warren, Waitsfield, Bristol, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Richmond, and Bolton, VT

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See Attachment A for list

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:

See Attachment B for response

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

The mission of FRS is to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America through philanthropic and educational programs. FRS educates the public on the benefits and uses of rural broadband. The trip will showcase the challenges of providing broadband to rural communities.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

FRS has sponsored similar trips for congressional staff to Montana (2013), New York (2014), Kentucky/Tennessee (2015), Wyoming (2016), South Dakota (2017), West Virginia (2018) and Montana (2021).

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

FRS produces white papers and economic studies on rural broadband issues, hosts an annual Youth Tour to Washington, DC for rural high school students, awards college scholarship and community grants, and offers educational events such as a Rural Broadband 101 session for Hill staff and third parties.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	**Lodging Expenses**	**Meal Expenses**	**Other Expenses**
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	$650 ($320 for round-trip flight and $330 for bus)	$447 ($149 x 3 nights in Washington County)	$241.50 (2 partial days @ $51.75 and 2 full days @ $69)	none

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:

This trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

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

Rural Vermont highlights a wide variety of geographic challenges reflecting those faces by other rural areas of the U.S.

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

All three nights will be at the same hotel: Sugarbush Inn at Sugarbush, 102 Forest Drive, Warren VT

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

The selected hotel is centrally located, is of good quality and meets the per diem rate requirements.

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 selected equals the federal per diem rate of $149 for this geographic area (without taxes).

The meals are equal to the federal per diem rates.

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:

Flights will be coach round-trip from Washington, DC to Burlington, VA; transportation within the state will be via chartered coach bus.

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: Pamela Becker

Name and Title: Pamela Becker, Executive Director

Name of Organization: Foundation for Rural Service

Address: 4121 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203

Telephone Number: office: 703-351-2044; mobile: 703-346-0817

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: pbecker@frs.org

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form – ATTACHMENT A

The following individuals received an email invitation to attend the 2022 FRS Congressional Broadband Tour of Vermont.

Name	Last name	Position	Office
Mike	Albares	Senior Policy Adviser	Sen. Tuberville
Collin	Anderson	Policy Advisor	Sen. Blumenthal
Erica	Andeweg	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Fischer
Christi	Barnhardt	Senior Counsel	Sen. Cantwell
Adam	Battalio	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Braun
Michael	Bednarczyk	Professional Staff Member	Senate Appropriations Committee
Craig	Berning	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Fischer
Bill	Birsic	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Marshall
Mikayla	Bodey	Professional Staff Member	Sen. Stabenow
Chad	Bolt	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Brown
Danny	Butherus	Legislative Aide	Sen. Cruz
Bennett	Butler	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Markey
Patrick	Carroll	Professional Staff Member	Senate Appropriations Committee
Dan	Cheever	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Young
Annie	Chestnut	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Johnson
Vivek	Chilukuri	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Bennet
Rashan	Colbert	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Booker
Titus	Cornell	Legislative Correspondent	Sen. Warnock
Allen	Cutler	Professional Staff Member	Senate Appropriations Committee
Brian	Daner	Counsel	Senate Appropriations Committee
Alex	De Bianchi	Senior Policy Advisor	Sen. Rosen
Scott	Duff	Legislative Assistant	Sen. McConnell
Rachel	Erlebacher	Professional Staff Member	Senate Appropriations Committee
James	Floyd	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Durbin
Tiffany	Ge	Legislative Director	Sen. McConnell
Darin	Guries	Professional Staff Member	Sen. Boozman
Diana	Hamilton	Professional Staff Member	Senate Appropriations Committee
Tyler	Hardy	Deputy Legislative Director	Sen. Hoeven
Virginia	Hayes	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Duckworth
Jessica	Hernandez	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Gillibrand
Kyle	Hill	Legislative Aide	Sen. Rick Scott
Garrison	Holmberg	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Moran
Erin	Jarnagin	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Lummis
Sherry	Kuntz	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Grassley
Rachel	Lang	Advisor for International Trade, Competitiveness and Innovation	Senate Finance Committee
Chris	Leuchten	Counsel	Sen. Sinema

Jeff	Lopez	Senior Legislative Assistant	Sen. Lujan
Jeff	Lopez	Senior Legislative Assistant	Sen. Lujan
Ryan	Losak	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Boozman
Dan	McCarthy	Legislative Director	Sen. Baldwin
Chris	Miller	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Hyde-Smith
MaryKate	Munro	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Ernst
Olivia	Oo	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Tester
David	Pigue	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Sullivan
Matt	Plaster	Broadband Policy Adviser	Sen. Capito
Arun	Revana	Legislative Director	Sen. Schatz
Edgar	Rivas	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Hickenlooper
Dylan	Rogers	Legislative Assistant	Sen. John Barrasso
Arielle	Roth	Legislative Counsel	Sen. Blunt
Nick	Russell	Counsel	Sen. Peters
Adam	Schiff	Policy Advisor	Sen. Smith
Baz	Selassie	Counsel	Sen. Klobuchar
Chris	Soghoian	Senior Advisor for Privacy & Cybersecurity	Sen. Wyden
Jamie	Susskind	Policy Advisor	Sen. Blackburn
Olivia	Trusty	Subcommittee Policy Director	Senate Commerce Committee
Jeff	VanOot	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Leahy
Annie	Wang	Counsel/Deputy Legislative Director	Sen. Warnock
Joel	Wellum	Legislative Counsel	Sen. Lee

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form – ATTACHMENT B

Sponsor: The Foundation for Rural Service

Question 12

FRS is the sole sponsor of this trip and will make all arrangements for travel (lodging, meals, transportation) and will incur all expenses. FRS receives donations from many different companies and individuals that make its various programs possible. The Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative (RTFC) contributes funding specifically for educational awareness activities and programming, but it remains FRS discretion about how to use this funding. There have been no direct or indirect requirements on how to use the funding beyond for educational awareness on rural issues (as established in the FRS mission). Further, RTFC has not been involved in the planning of this trip nor do any employees or representatives of RTFC attend the trip.

0000000003645 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 19, 2022

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

FRS Congressional Broadband Tour – Vermont
August 16-19, 2022

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to enhancing quality of life in America by promoting a better understanding of rural issues. The vision of FRS is to harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Capitol Hill staff on the geographic and financial challenges of providing robust broadband service to remote rural areas, as well as to highlight the role rural telecom companies play in providing these essential services that support education, commercial activity, agriculture, health, and public safety. Attendees will meet with a range of small, rural telecommunications companies in Vermont as well as companies that rely on broadband to provide essential services to their communities. The group will also visit rural community leaders and discuss ways in which the state has been enhanced by broadband applications. Drive times through Vermont will give FRS staff an opportunity to provide educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving "last mile" areas in a highly rural state.

No registered lobbyists will attend this trip. All expenses will be paid in full by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and will be subject to the daily per diem allowances for Senate and House employees—in other words, all meals, lodging and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

10:21 a.m.	Leave DCA on American Airlines #5409
12:10 p.m.	Arrive Burlington, Vermont
12:15 p.m.	Pam Becker, Executive Director of the Foundation for Rural Service will provide staffers with welcome packets and escort them to bus.
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Bus to hotel
	Sugarbush Inn at Sugarbush 102 Forest Drive Warren, VT 05674

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Arrive at hotel for lunch and check in. During lunch, FRS Executive Director Pam Becker will lead introductions and discussion about the group's itinerary for the next two days, provide background, what to expect, and answer questions.
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Board the bus to Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (3898 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT 05673)
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Introduction and Welcome to the Mad River Valley** with an overview of the local business community and some of the rich history of the rural community, and a recognition of the role of local newspapers in rural communities. Speakers: • Kurt Gruendling, VP of Marketing and Business Development, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Susan Klein, former Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce • Lisa Loomis, Editor of the Valley Reporter
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	**Broadband 101** presentation with information about the ins and outs of the telecommunications network and the challenges of building and maintaining broadband networks in rural communities. Speaker: • Steve Shepard, Shepard Communications Group
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	**Tour of the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley 496 Central Office and Demonstration of Tools of the Trade.** A hands-on demonstration of how to splice fiber, various telecom testing equipment, network equipment including ONT (Optical Network Terminal), Access Point, tools of the trade, fiber splicing trailer, bucket truck, etc. Speakers/Demonstrators: • Eric Haskin, President/CEO, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Lee Cheney, Vice President of Network Operations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Roger Nishi, Vice President of Industry Relations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Todd Garthaffner, Network Manager at Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Marc Senecal, Installation and Maintenance Supervisor, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	**Bus to restaurant** During the bus ride Kurt Gruendling will answer questions about the equipment and technology that was demonstrated at the office.
6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	**Dinner** American Flatbread 46 Lareau Road Waitsfield, VT 05673
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Bus to hotel for night

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Sugarbush Inn
8:00 a.m.	Board the Bus to travel to Vermont's Champlain Valley via the Appalachian Gap (Route 17).
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	**Stop at the top of the Appalachian Gap and discussion about running fiber-optic cable** over the Appalachian Gap / Green Mountains with Kurt Gruendling, VP of Marketing and Business Development for Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Continue bus ride to Bristol, VT (56 Airport Dr, Bristol, VT 05443)
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	**Demonstration of the Virtual Living Room** at the American Legion Post 19. The FRS Virtual Living Room provides a way for veterans in the area to access the VA's Video Connect Service. Speaker will lead a discussion about the importance of telehealth services to address rural veterans' health care needs. Speaker: • Tina Kebalka, Program Coordinator for the White River Junction VA Medical Center.
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Bus to A Johnson Co. (106 Andrew Johnson Dr, Bristol)
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	**Tour A Johnson Co. Lumber Mill** to learn about the critical role that the mill plays in the Vermont economy and how broadband and technology are used to further the business. Speaker: • Ken Johnson, General Manager at A Johnson Co.

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

11:30 a.m. -- Noon	Bus to Basin Harbor Resort (4800 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, VT 05491
Noon – 2:30 p.m.	**Lunch and tour of Basin Harbor Resort** with a discussion about the history of the area and the role of Lake Champlain in local economy. Speaker: • Sarah Morris, Director of Sales and Fifth Generation Host, Basin Harbor Resort
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Bus to Dakin Farm (5797 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456)
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Welcome and tour of Dakin Farm. F**ounded in 1960 on the site of the original Dakin Farm settled in 1792, the Farm now features Vermont specialty foods including maple syrup and ham using broadband in their distribution center that ships around the world. Speakers: • Sam Cutting, Owner of Dakin Farm • Eric LeBeau, General Manager of Dakin Farm
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Bus to Mad River Glen Ski Area (35-1 Schuss Pass, Waitsfield, VT 05673)
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	**Discussion and viewing of Broadband Field Electronics at WCVT remote cabinet location**. Remote cabinets and field electronics are critical to providing high-speed Internet service to customers. This stop will include a discussion of the technical design of a remote cabinet location. Speaker: • Lee Cheney, Vice President of Network Operations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	**Welcome to Mad River Glen Ski Area.** Mad River Glen Ski Area is America's only skier-owned cooperative – also a business structure for many broadband providers. Broadband service is critical for the success of the resort. Speaker: • Matt Lillard, General Manager, Mad River Glen Ski Cooperative
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner at Mad River Glen's Base Box
8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	Bus to hotel for the night

0000000003649 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 19, 2022

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

Thursday, August 18, 2022

7:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Sugarbush Inn
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Bus and drive to Bolton Valley Ski Area (4302 Bolton Access Rd, Richmond, VT 05477)
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	**Welcome to Bolton Valley.** Bolton Valley sits high in the Green Mountains of Vermont and boasts the highest base elevation of any ski area in the state. Bolton Valley is owned by the DesLauriers family and a small group of investors. Speaker: • Lindsay DesLauriers, President of Bolton Valley Resort
9 :30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	**Town of Bolton Fiber Project**. Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) plans to convert all remaining Bolton residents in its service area to fiber-optics in 2022. This was made possible in part by the Town of Bolton which has committed more than half of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help expand fiber-optic broadband to more residents through a public-private partnership with WCVT. Approximately $200,000 in town ARPA funds are being committed to this project as well as a request of matching grant funds from the State of Vermont to build fiber-optics to approximately 440 additional homes. WCVT will also invest its own capital in the project and is requesting an additional grant from the State of Vermont based on the amount of unserved road miles to help fund a portion of this project. Speakers: • Deb Shelby, Bolton resident and web developer, former head of economic development committee • Kurt Gruendling, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom • Roger Nishi, Vice President of Industry Relations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**Vermont's Independent Telephone Companies** – discussion about Vermont's unique independent telephone companies. Speakers: • Kim Gates, President, Franklin Telephone • Mike Reed, Executive Vice President, Technology Association of New England

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**Broadband Public-Private Partnership Discussion with Vermont Community Broadband Board, Operating Partners, and Vermont's Communications Union Districts (CUD)**. Discussion about the CUD model in Vermont and public-private partnerships to expand broadband access. Speakers: • Mike Reed, Executive Vice President, Telephone Association of New England • Steve Huffaker, Chair, Maple Broadband • Christa Shute, Executive Director, NEK Broadband • Jennille Smith, Executive Director, CVFiber (invited) • Christine Hallquist, Executive Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch and discussion about **Broadband as a Catalyst for Economic Development** with information about the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI)**.** Speaker: • Matt Dunne, Executive Director of Center on Rural Innovation (CORI)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Bus to Smilie Memorial Elementary School (2712 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy, Bolton, VT 05676)
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**The Importance of Broadband in Rural Education** How an extremely rural school district responded to Covid and uses broadband to provide educational resources for its eight schools and 2,400 students. Speaker: • John Alberghini, Superintendent of Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Bus to Lawson's Finest Liquids (155 Carroll Rd, Waitsfield, VT 05673)

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**Tour Lawson's Finest Liquids taproom**. Founded in 2008 in Warren, Vermont as a home-based brewery, now with 50 employees, named Small Business of the Year by the Central VT Economic Development Corporation and recipient of the Brewbound Rising Star award. Lawson's distribution includes New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Eastern Pennsylvania, and most of New York and relies on broadband for its national customer base. Speakers: • Scott Shirley, Director of Brewery Operations, Lawson's • TJ Greenwood, Director of Operations, Lawson's
5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Bus to Castlerock Pub (66 Gate House Ln, Warren, VT 05674)
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	**Dinner at Castlerock Pub** Sugarbush Resort relies on its fiber optic network throughout the property for total integration of all operations of the resort. Speakers: • John Hammond, President of Sugarbush Resort • Jim Westhelle, Vice President of Real Estate Development, Base Operations and Lodging at Sugarbush Resort
8:00 p.m.	Bus to hotel for night

Friday, August 19, 2022

4:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.	Bus to Burlington Airport
6:04 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	American Airlines #4697 to DCA

0000000003652 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 19, 2022

From: Pam Becker
To: Lang, Rachel (Wyden)
Subject: SAVE THE DATE for 2022 FRS Congressional Broadband tour
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:54:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning, Rachel!

I hope you are doing well and looking forward to those cherry blossoms. I also hope you enjoyed your time last August on the FRS Congressional Broadband Tour to Montana. We have just started putting together the schedule, but I want to let you know that we will be going to VERMONT this August 16-19, so save the dates! If you are interested in participating – even tentatively – please let me know and I'll put you on the list. Please also feel free to pass this information along to anybody else you believe would benefit from the tour and encourage them to contact me.

Thanks again and take care,
Pam

Pam Becker, CFRE
Executive Director
Foundation for Rural Service
(703) 351-2044 direct | (703) 346-0817 mobile
4121 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000 | Arlington, VA 22203
www.frs.org

FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

0000000003653 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 19, 2022

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, VICE CHAIRMAN

BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA

SHANNON HAMILTON KOPPLIN, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 9, 2022

Rachel Lang
Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Lang:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel to the *Congressional Broadband Tour* in Burlington, Warren, Waitsfield, Bristol, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Richmond, and Bolton, Vermont, on August 16–19, 2022, sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from FRS in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.[1] You are employed as an International Trade Advisor in the Committee on Finance and Senator Ron Wyden is your supervising Senator. FRS invited you to travel to the *Congressional Broadband Tour* in Burlington, Warren, Waitsfield, Bristol, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Richmond, and Bolton, Vermont, on August 16–19, 2022. FRS certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses[2] related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. FRS has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.[3]

Discussion

Privately-sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's

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[1] If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

[2] The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

[3] The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. *See id.* at 2.

official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110–81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately-sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel and Glossary of Terms* (collectively, *Travel Regulations*). The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor domestic trips for up to three days. The three-day limitation means three 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.[4] This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.[5]

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form,* and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel**.

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent and FRS' factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from FRS in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records).

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,[6] on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed $415 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a

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[4] The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 3.

[5] *See Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel* at 5; *see also Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2-3.

[6] A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 ($135,468 for CY 2022) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist