

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:

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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): American Lands Project

Travel date(s): Aug 10-17, 2022

Name of accompanying family member (if any): n/a

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	\$5,971.48 total	\$254.00 total	\$225.60 total	\$2,133 total; for share of backcountry guide service fees
☒ Actual Amount				

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.): Please see attached itinerary.

9/13/22
(Date)

Molly Ryan

(Printed name of traveler)

[Signature]
(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.

9/13/22
(Date)

[Signature: Susan M. Collins]
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2022 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Wednesday, Aug 10, 2022

- Travel from Washington DC to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart DCA, Alaska Air #1, **10:49 a.m.** arrive SEA
 - **1:35 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska Air #1465, **4:20 p.m.** arrive FAI
 - **4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Taxi from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Thursday, Aug 11, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron (Senator Booker), Molly Ryan (Senator Collins), Brandon Bragato (House Natural Resources Committee), Brendon Cechovic (Western Conservation Foundation), Karlin Itchoak (The Wilderness Society), Armando Rojas (American Lands Project), Jeff Gillespie (Arctic Treks guide)

- Travel from Fairbanks to basecamp in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
 - **6:30 a.m.** Shuttle to Fairbanks Airport
 - **8:30 a.m.** Depart Fairbanks via Wright's Air, **10:30 a.m.** Arrive Kavik- a small landing strip that functions as a staging point to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - **11:30 a.m.** Depart Kavik, Coyote Air, **12:00 p.m.** Arrive Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp (trip programming begins).
- **12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review maps of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge), and discuss the various land management priorities for conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses on tribal, state, and federal lands in and around the Arctic Refuge.
- **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, in the 1980s it was expanded to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests presented with the background that led to these designations, and how these changes affected management.
- **2:30 p.m – 5:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the importance of the Arctic Refuge to migratory birds, caribou, and polar bear.
- **5:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Review the geologic and ecological differences among the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, NPR-A, and Prudhoe Bay (State of Alaska land), and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

- **6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic, and history of development. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion of recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, as well as offshore drilling in state and federal waters, with the intent of providing guests with a better understanding of Alaska's fossil fuel resources, and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.

Friday, Aug 12, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron, Molly Ryan, Brandon Bragato, Brendon Cechovic, Karlin Itchoak, Armando Rojas, Jeff Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the history of Indigenous people in the Arctic and Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years. Today, 18% of Alaska's total population is Alaska Native or American Indian, the highest of any state.
- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed "Alaska Native Corporations," tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests presented with the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the coastal plain and to observe permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, overview oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner

Saturday, August 13, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron, Molly Ryan, Brandon Bragato, Brendon Cechovic, Karlin Itchoak, Armando Rojas, Jeff Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Arctic Refuge, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in land protection and management.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.”
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Overview of the North Slope Borough and its villages. Most of the Borough’s approximately 11,000 permanent residents live in eight communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) serves as the Borough seat of government. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how groups such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Review the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934, and the 1936 amendment known as the Alaska IRA that resulted in the U.S. Government formally recognizing Alaska Natives. Discuss the role of Federally recognized Tribal governments and Tribal Courts in Alaska and the North Slope.

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron, Molly Ryan, Brandon Bragato, Brendon Cechovic, Karlin Itchoak, Armando Rojas, Jeff Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Overview of the history of oil and gas exploration on the Coastal Plain, results of the January 2021 Arctic Refuge lease sale, and recent action by the current Administration to suspend drilling-related activities in the Refuge.

- **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Discussion of the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation's carbon management. Alaska contains one third the country's federally managed lands, but stores an even larger share of terrestrial ecosystem carbon stocks-- 62% of all carbon contained in the soils and terrestrial ecosystems of federally managed land is held in Alaska.
- **11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Break
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review estimates on the quantity of methane stored in permafrost in the Arctic. Arctic landscapes are a major reservoir of this greenhouse gas, and rising temperatures have been accelerating release from existing stores in the permafrost.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discuss how climate change has impacted communities throughout the state, and how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. Review how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to address this, including its investments in a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities which are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven impacts.

Monday, August 15, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron, Molly Ryan, Brandon Bragato, Brendon Cechovic, Karlin Itchoak, Armando Rojas, Jeff Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests presented information about the 45 year history of the \$8B Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, its construction, role in North Slope development, and its role in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Discussion: Overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment of the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Discussion around international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview the

United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of melting sea ice. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.

- **2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Final guided hike to review remaining questions and summarize the topics covered throughout the trip.

Unsafe flying conditions (visibility/ weather) prevented the air-taxi from safely picking-up the group. This kept the group grounded for an extra night at the basecamp location.

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Attendees: Veronica Duron, Molly Ryan, Brandon Bragato, Brendon Cechovic, Karlin Itchoak, Armando Rojas, Jeff Gillespie

Continued unsafe flying conditions kept the group grounded at basecamp until afternoon. The group was flown to the Kavik landing strip as a staging point before a second air-taxi flight transported the group to Fairbanks.

- **1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Break down camp
- Travel from basecamp in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Fairbanks
 - **3:00 p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air, **4:30 p.m.** Arrive Kavik
 - **7:00 p.m.** Depart Kavik, Wright Air, **9:30 p.m.** arrive Fairbanks Airport
 - **9:30 p.m.** Taxi from Airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge to collect bags stowed at the beginning of the trip.
- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, DC
 - **11:30 p.m.** Taxi to Fairbanks Airport

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

- Continued travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, DC
 - **2:10 a.m.** Alaska Air #234 to SEA, arriving **6:40 a.m.**
 - **8:25 a.m.** Alaska Air #4 to DCA, arriving **4:32 p.m.**

PRIOR PAPERWORK

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Date/Time Stamp:

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: Molly RyanEmploying Office/Committee: Senator Susan CollinsPrivate Sponsor(s) (list all): American Lands ProjectTravel date(s): August 10-16, 2022, with Aug 10-11 and Aug 15-16 as travel to/from destination*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*Destination(s): Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska (with overnight layover in Fairbanks, Alaska)

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

Molly Ryan is the Legislative Assistant for Senator Collins and supports the Senator and her role on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Molly works on a broad array of natural resource policy issues, including those relating to the management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This trip will give Molly first-hand knowledge of the Arctic Refuge, and the opportunity to learn about Arctic natural systems, land management history, economic drivers, and the importance of the region to Alaska Natives.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): n/aRelationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

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

7/11/22
(Date)

Molly Ryan
(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, Susan Collins hereby authorize Molly Ryan
(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) ☐

7/11/22
(Date)

Susan M. Collins
(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.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): American Lands Project

2. Description of the trip: Fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to learn about its importance to Alaska Natives, Arctic natural systems and history, and land management plans.

3. Dates of travel: Aug 10 - Aug 16, 2022, with Aug 10-11 and Aug 15-16 as travel to/from destination

4. Place of travel: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Gerry Petrella (Policy Director, Schumer), Molly Ryan (L.A., Collins)
Veronica Duron (Chief of Staff, Booker)

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:

American Lands Project (ALP) is the sole sponsor and will be funding the trip, developing the trip itinerary, and organizing all logistics not organized by the backcountry guide service.

ALP Program Manager Armando Rojas will be attending the trip.

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

American Lands Project seeks to inform discussions regarding important public lands in our nation, in part by facilitating fact-finding travel centered on place-based education. This trip will provide history, context, and understanding for guests in support of their responsibilities related to public lands in Arctic Alaska.

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

American Lands Project has organized sponsored travel opportunities for House Members to Southeast Alaska (2021), for congressional staff to Southeastern Oregon (2022), and for a Senate Member to Arctic Alaska (2022).

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

American Lands Project conducts educational briefings for decision-makers in Washington, DC, and works in coalition with diverse organizations engaged with policies surrounding the use and management of America's public lands and waters.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate	\$5,332.41 total (\$1,648.98 for DC - Fairbanks round trip flights; \$3,658.43 for Fairbanks - Arctic Refuge round trip flights; \$25 for taxis in Fairbanks)	\$383 total (\$154/night for 2 nights hotel in Fairbanks; \$75 for tent rental in Arctic Refuge)	\$170 total For share of backcountry meals provided by guide (none will exceed per diem rates)	\$2,000 total For share of guide service costs
☐ Actual Amounts				

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:

b) This trip has been arranged specifically with regard to congressional participation.

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

This trip will provide invitees with a unique opportunity to visit the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to learn about Arctic natural systems, land management history, economic drivers, and the importance of the region to Alaska Natives.

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

Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge (1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709)

Basecamps will be comprised of individual camping tents in a remote part of the Arctic Refuge.

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

The hotel in Fairbanks was selected for room availability, central location, and comparable seasonal rates to other local hotels. In the Arctic Refuge, basecamps (individual tents) are the only option to stay overnight in this remote location; there are no hotels in the vicinity.

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:

For Fairbanks, the lodging is at per diem.

For the Arctic Refuge the lodging is below per diem and the meals are below 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:

Coach class round trip flights between Washington, DC and Fairbanks, and coach class equivalent on

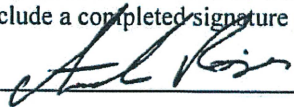
air taxis when traveling from Fairbanks to remote locations in the Refuge. Taxis for ground transportation.

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: Armando Rojas, Program Manager

Name of Organization: American Lands Project

Address: 1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 406, Seattle WA 98101

Telephone Number: M: 509-760-4217

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: armando@americanlandsproject.org



July 8, 2022

Molly Ryan
Legislative Assistant
Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Molly,

The American Lands Project appreciates the interest your office has shown in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional and unique landscape – an intact arctic ecosystem, and one of the wildest places on earth. The Iñupiat and Gwich'in people have been stewards of this land from time immemorial, and both groups still depend heavily on the region's subsistence resources. The Arctic Refuge provides critical habitat to polar bears, caribou, musk ox, and hundreds of species of migratory birds.

Land use policy for the Arctic Refuge has varied significantly for many decades. In January 2015, the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced its revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge that recommended a Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain area. Later in 2017, legislation was passed that instead opened the Coastal Plan to oil and gas development, and a lease sale was completed in January 2021. Currently, the Department of the Interior has suspended those leases and other drilling activities until additional reviews are completed.

We believe a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would provide you a valuable opportunity to see and experience first-hand this remote arctic landscape and better understand the dynamic human and natural systems at play in this area.

We would like to invite you to join American Lands Project for a trip to the Arctic Refuge from August 10th to August 16th, 2022 (On the ground in the Arctic Refuge from August 11th – August 15th). Attached is a detailed itinerary that includes opportunities to experience some of the most remote country in the United States, and learn about Alaska Native communities, natural systems, energy and climate issues, and the history and land use policy of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Please let me know if I can be helpful in answering any questions about the proposed trip, and I hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Armando Rojas
Program Manager

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2022 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Wednesday, Aug 10, 2022

- Travel from Washington DC to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart DCA, Alaska Air #1, **10:49 a.m.** arrive SEA
 - **1:35 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska Air #1465, **4:20 p.m.** arrive FAI
 - **4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Taxi from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Thursday, Aug 11, 2022

Attendees: Gerry Petrella (Senator Schumer), Molly Ryan (Senator Collins), Veronica Duron (Senator Booker), Lindsey Parobek (Congressman Simpson), Brandon Bragato (House Natural Resources Committee), Karlin Itchoak (The Wilderness Society), Armando Rojas (American Lands Project)

- Travel from Fairbanks to basecamp in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
 - **7:00 a.m.** Shuttle to airport
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart FAI, Wright's Air, **9:00 a.m.** Arrive Coldfoot
 - **9:30* a.m.** Depart Coldfoot, Coyote Air, **11:30* a.m.** Arrive Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp (trip programming begins).
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review maps of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge), and discuss the various land management priorities for conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses on tribal, state, and federal lands in and around the Arctic Refuge.
- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, in the 1980s it was expanded to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations, and how these changes affected management.
- **2:30 p.m - 5:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the importance of the Arctic Refuge to migratory birds, caribou, and polar bear.
- **5:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m.** Review the geologic and ecological differences among the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, NPR-A, and Prudhoe Bay (State of Alaska land), and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Arctic Refuge, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in land protection and management.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as "the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade."
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Overview of the North Slope Borough and its villages. Most of the Borough's approximately 11,000 permanent residents live in eight communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) serves as the Borough seat of government. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how groups such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Review the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934, and the 1936 amendment known as the Alaska IRA that resulted in the U.S. Government formally recognizing Alaska Natives. Discuss the role of Federally recognized Tribal governments and Tribal Courts in Alaska and the North Slope.

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Attendees: Gerry Petrella, Molly Ryan, Veronica Duron, Brandon Bragato, Lindsey Parobek, Armando Rojas, Karlin Itchoak, guide to be assigned by Arctic Treks.

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Overview of the history of oil and gas exploration on the Coastal Plain, results of the January 2021 Arctic Refuge lease sale, and recent action by the current Administration to suspend drilling-related activities in the Refuge.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Discussion of the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation's carbon management. Alaska contains one third the country's federally managed lands, but stores an even larger share of terrestrial ecosystem carbon stocks-- 62% of all

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)

Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.

- **2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Break down camp, then final guided hike to review remaining questions and summarize the topics covered throughout the trip.
- Travel from basecamp in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Fairbanks (trip programming ends).
 - **4:30* p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air, **6:30* p.m.** Arrive Coldfoot
 - **8:00 p.m.** Depart Coldfoot, Wright's Air, **9:00 p.m.** Arrive FAI
 - **9:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to Westmark Fairbanks Hotel, 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, AK

Tuesday, August 16, 2023

- **4:30 a.m.** Shuttle from hotel to FAI airport
- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Seattle, WA/Washington, D.C.
 - **6:00 a.m.** Alaska Air #358 to SEA arriving **10:36 a.m.**
 - **1:55 p.m.** Alaska Air #2 to ORD arriving **9:57 p.m.**

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

July 26, 2022

Molly Ryan
Office of the Senator Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Ryan:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel on a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, on August 10–16, 2022, sponsored by the American Lands Project. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the American Lands Project 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 a Legislative Aide in the Office of Senator Susan M. Collins. The American Lands Project invited you to travel on a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, on August 10–16, 2022. The American Lands Project certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² 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. The American Lands Project 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 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

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.

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 trips to destinations outside the contiguous United States, including Alaska, for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 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 the American Lands Project's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the American Lands Project 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

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shannon Hamilton Kopplin".

Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist