RE-2 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.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification:*In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
Foundation for Rural Service

Travel Dates:
08/15/2023 to 08/18/2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$849.65	$196.00	$150.00	$0.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/6/2023
Date

JEREMY HOFFNER
Printed Name of Traveler

Jeremy Hoffner
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.

9/6/2023
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

○ Yes ● No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.		

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ● No

Explanation: There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ● No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

RE-1 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.

Name of Traveler:

Jeremy Hoffner

Employing Office/Committee:

Senator Warnock

Private Sponsor(s):

Foundation for Rural Service

Destination(s):

Fargo, North Dakota and Alexandria, Minne

Travel Dates:

08/15/2023 - 08/18/2023

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

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

I help cover the telecom and broadband portfolio in Senator Warnock's office. I spend a good amount of time talking with constituents in more rural parts of the state about a lack of broadband access and what the barriers are to getting affordable and consistent access. This trip will allow me to gain first hand knowledge of these barriers and ways to help address them. These lessons would allow me to better help Georgia constituents when we devise legislative and non-legislative solutions to improve broadband access across the state.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? **Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

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

7/25/23

Date

Jeremy Hoffner

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Raphael Warnock hereby authorize Jeremy Hoffner

(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)

7/25/23

Date

R. Warnock

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Foundation for Rural Service (FRS): 2023 FRS Congressional Broadband Tour -- North Dakota and Minnesota

JEREMY HOFFNER

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
WARNOCK, RAPHAEL

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):
Alexandria, Minnesota
Fargo, North Dakota

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

I help cover the telecom and broadband portfolio in Senator Warnock's office. I spend a good amount of time talking with constituents in more rural parts of the state about a lack of broadband access and what the barriers are to getting affordable and consistent access. This trip will allow me to gain first hand knowledge of these barriers and ways to help address them. These lessons would allow me to better help Georgia constituents when we devise legislative and non-legislative solutions to improve broadband access across the state.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
● Yes ○ No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address
4121 Wilson Boulevard

Address 2 (Optional)
Public Charity

City, State Zip
Arlington, Virginia 22203 United States

Phone Number
703-346-0817

Organization URL
frs.org

History of Congressional Travel

FRS has sponsored similar trips for congressional staff to Montana (2013), New York (2014), Kentucky and Tennessee (2015), Wyoming (2016), South Dakota (2017), West Virginia (2018), Montana (2021), and Vermont (2022).

Educational Activities

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 scholarships and community grants, and offers educational events such as a Rural Broadband 101 briefing for Hill staff.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ● I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ● I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

- [x] I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

Travel throughout eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota to visit local broadband providers and users, and highlight the geographic and financial challenges of providing rural broadband services.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's 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 -- and critical importance -- of providing broadband to rural communities.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were 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.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/15/2023 @ 07:45 AM

⇄

Trip End Date/Time:
08/18/2023 @ 11:38 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $849.65 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$639.65
Note Roundtrip DCA to FAR		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$210.00
Note Chartered coach bus to pick up participants at airport and travel to all stops for entirety of trip, including return to airport.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $196.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/16/2023	08/17/2023	Holiday Inn Alexandria	Alexandria	Minnesota	United States	1	$98.00	No
08/17/2023	08/18/2023	Holiday Inn Fargo	Fargo	North Dakota	United States	1	$98.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $150.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/15/2023	$0.00	$15.00	$26.00	$0.00	**$41.00**	Fargo and Grand Forks	North Dakota	United States	No
08/16/2023	$13.00	$15.00	$26.00	$0.00	**$54.00**	Bemidji and Alexandria	Minnesota	United States	No
08/17/2023	$13.00	$16.00	$26.00	$0.00	**$55.00**	Wahpeton and Fargo	North Dakota	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: FRS 2023 Congressional Broadband Tour

Travel Date(s): August 15 -18, 2023

Travel Destination(s): Fargo, Grand Forks, Wahpeton, Colfax, and Kindred, ND; El Erskin, Bemidji, Park Rapids, Brandon, Alexandria, and Fergus Falls, MN

Sponsor: The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

Pamela Becker — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Executive Director — *(title)*

Pamela Becker — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

7/6/2023 — *(date)*

First Name	Last Name	State	Party	Title	Email	Phone	Issue Areas
Charles	Adams	ID	Republican	Legislative Director	charles_adams@risch.senate.gov	202-224-2752	Appropriations; Commerce; Education; Families; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Government operations and politics; International affairs; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Rebecca	Alcorn	ID	Republican	Policy Adviser Senior Policy Adviser	rebecca_alcorn@crapo.senate.gov	202-224-6142	Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of the Treasury; Education; Families; Finance and financial sector; Health; Housing and community development; Labor and employment; Medicaid; Medicare; Social security and elderly assistance; Social welfare; State Children's Health Insurance Program; Taxation; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Women's issues
Collin	Anderson	CT	Democratic	Privacy and Cybersecurity Policy Adviser	collin_anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov	202-224-2823	Telecommunications
Ron	Anderson	LA	Republican	Senior Policy Adviser	ron_anderson@cassidy.senate.gov	202-224-5824	Agriculture and food; Animals; Appropriations; Armed forces and national security; Emergency management; Housing and community development; Small business
Erica	Andeweg	NE	Republican	Senior Policy Adviser	erica_andeweg@fischer.senate.gov	202-224-6551	Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Crime and law enforcement; Guns; Immigration; Law and judiciary; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Erica	Anhalt	NH	Democratic	Senior Legislative Assistant	erica_anhalt@shaheen.senate.gov	202-224-2841	Agriculture and food; Animals; Arts culture and religion; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Education; Families; Immigration; Native Americans
Nathan	Anonick	AR	Republican	Professional Staff Member Republican	nathan_anonick@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Housing and community development; Small business; Taxation; Telecommunications
Wesley	Armstrong	FL	Republican	Legislative Correspondent	wesley_armstrong@rubio.senate.gov	202-224-3041	Agriculture and food; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Crime and law enforcement; Emergency management; Energy; Environmental protection; Government operations and politics; Guns; Immigration; Labor and employment; Law and judiciary; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Aria	Austin	PA	Democratic	Legislative Aide	aria_austin@fetterman.senate.gov	202-224-4254	Agriculture and food; Animals; Appropriations; Arts culture and religion; Energy; Public lands and natural resources; Telecommunications; Veterans affairs
Chris	Avila	DE	Democratic	Legislative Aide	chris_avila@coons.senate.gov	202-224-5042	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection
Mana	Azarmi	CA	Democratic	Counsel	mana_azarmi@judiciary-dem.senate.gov	202-224-6991	Commerce; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Vernon	Baker	MI	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	vernon_baker@stabenow.senate.gov	202-224-4822	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Small business; Taxation
Micah	Barbour	VA	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	micah_barbour@warner.senate.gov	202-224-2023	Agriculture and food; Energy; Environmental protection; Foreign trade and international finance; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology
Didier	Barjon	NY	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	didier_barjon@schumer.senate.gov	202-224-6542	Science and technology; Telecommunications
Julia	Barry	CO	Democratic	Legislative Aide	julia_barry@hickenlooper.senate.gov	202-224-5941	Agriculture and food; Animals; Native Americans
Serena	Baserman	OR	Democratic	Legislative Correspondent	serena_baserman@merkley.senate.gov	202-224-3753	Agriculture and food; Energy; Environmental protection; Science and technology
Adam	Battalio	IN	Republican	Legislative Assistant	adam_battalio@braun.senate.gov	202-224-4814	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Public lands and natural resources; Transportation and public works
John	Beezer	CO	Democratic	Senior Adviser	john_beezer@commerce.senate.gov	202-224-0411	Data privacy and security; Internet commerce
Phillip	Berenbroick	NJ	Democratic	Senior Counsel	phillip_berenbroick@menendez.senate.gov	202-224-4744	Crime and law enforcement; Government operations and politics; Guns; Law and judiciary; Telecommunications
Rick	Berger	MS	Republican	Budget Director Republican	rick_berger@armed-services.senate.gov	202-224-3871	Accounting and auditing; Budget process; Cloud computing; Global basing; Information technology business systems; Management business and data; Military operations and strategy; Reprogramming; Software intensive systems; U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; Working Capital Fund
Craig	Berning	NE	Republican	Legislative Assistant	craig_berning@fischer.senate.gov	202-224-6551	Agriculture and food; Animals; Environmental protection; Foreign trade and international finance
Andrew	Bichlmeier	MS	Republican	U.S. Coast Guard Fellow	andrew_bichlmeier@wicker.senate.gov	202-224-6253	Commerce; Science and technology; Transportation and public works
Mikayla	Bodey	MI	Democratic	Senior Professional Staff Member	mikayla_bodey@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Appropriations; Biofuels; Broadband; Energy; Rural conditions and development
Chad	Bolt	OH	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	chad_bolt@brown.senate.gov	202-224-2315	Commerce; Social welfare; Taxation; Telecommunications
Claire	Borzner	MI	Democratic	Senior Professional Staff Member	claire_borzner@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Food security; Foreign aid and international relief; Nutrition and diet
Jackie	Bossman	SD	Republican	Legislative Assistant	jackie_bossman@rounds.senate.gov	202-224-5842	Abortion; Arts culture and religion; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Crime and law enforcement; Families; Foreign trade and international finance; Immigration; International affairs; Law and judiciary; Women's issues
James	Braid	OH	Republican	Legislative Director	james_braid@vance.senate.gov	202-224-3353	Appropriations; Government operations and politics; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Becca	Branum	WI	Democratic	General Counsel/Health Care Adviser	becca_branum@baldwin.senate.gov	202-224-5653	Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Crime and law enforcement; Education; Families; Guns; Immigration; Law and judiciary; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Women's issues
Michael	Brooks	SD	Republican	Senior Adviser Agriculture Policy	michael_brooks@rounds.senate.gov	202-224-5842	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources
Jen	Brown	NY	Democratic	Banking Counsel	jennifer_brown@schumer.senate.gov	202-224-6542	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Social welfare; Taxation
Rosy	Brummette	CO	Democratic	Policy Adviser	rosy_brummette@bennet.senate.gov	202-224-5852	Agriculture and food; Animals; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources
Cassie	Brzezinski	MD	Democratic	Policy Adviser	cassandra_brzezinski@vanhollen.senate.gov	202-224-4654	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; Small business
Caitlin	Buchanan	OR	Democratic	Policy Adviser	caitlin_buchanan@merkley.senate.gov	202-224-3753	Agriculture and food
Brad	Bunning	WY	Republican	Senior Adviser	brad_bunning@barrasso.senate.gov	202-224-6441	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Energy; Environmental protection; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Public lands and natural resources
Jen	Burks	HI	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	jen_burks@hirono.senate.gov	202-224-6361	resources
Kaitlin	Burt	SC	Republican	Legislative Assistant	kaitlin_burt@lgraham.senate.gov	202-224-5972	Abortion; Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Families; Small business; Women's issues
A.J.	Burton	HI	Democratic	Senior Counsel Technology and Communications Pol	aj_burton@schatz.senate.gov	202-224-3934	Telecommunications
Bennett	Butler	MA	Democratic	Policy Adviser	bennett_butler@markey.senate.gov	202-224-2742	Commerce; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Erika	Calderon	OH	Democratic	Professional Staff Member	erika_calderon@banking.senate.gov	202-224-7391	Consumer affairs; Consumer protection
Chloe	Cantor	MS	Republican	Senior Legislative Assistant	chloe_cantor@wicker.senate.gov	202-224-6253	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources
Steph	Carlson	IA	Republican	Deputy Legislative Director/Agriculture Policy Adviser	stephanie_carlson@ernst.senate.gov	202-224-3254	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources; Transportation and public works
Callum	Case	KY	Republican	Legislative Assistant	callum_case@paul.senate.gov	202-224-4343	Agriculture and food; Commerce; Education; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources; Transportation and public works
Francesco	Castella	NC	Republican	Senior Policy Adviser	francesco_castella@budd.senate.gov	202-224-3154	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; International affairs; Small business; Taxation; Telecommunications
Dan	Cheever	IN	Republican	Legislative Assistant	dan_cheever@young.senate.gov	202-224-5623	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Housing and community development; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Annie	Chestnut	WI	Republican	Legislative Assistant	annie_chestnut@ronjohnson.senate.gov	202-224-5323	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Energy; Environmental protection; Foreign trade and international finance; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Small business; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Vivek	Chilukuri	CO	Democratic	Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff	vivek_chilukuri@bennet.senate.gov	202-224-5852	Government operations and politics; Telecommunications
Hart	Clements	WA	Democratic	Deputy Legislative Director	hart_clements@murray.senate.gov	202-224-2621	Agriculture and food; Animals; Economics and public finance; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Brian	Conlan	WI	Democratic	Deputy Legislative Director	brian_conlan@baldwin.senate.gov	202-224-5653	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Labor and employment; Small business
Andrew	Cooper	TX	Republican	Legislative Assistant	andrew_cooper@cornyn.senate.gov	202-224-2934	Agriculture and food; Animals; Appropriations; Foreign trade and international finance
Salvatore	Corasaniti	ID	Republican	Legislative Assistant	salvatore_corasaniti@crapo.senate.gov	202-224-6142	Telecommunications
Chance	Costello	SD	Republican	Senior Legislative Assistant	chance_costello@thune.senate.gov	202-224-2321	Commerce; Science and technology; Transportation and public works
Colleen	Costello	RI	Democratic	Associate Legislative Assistant	colleen_costello@whitehouse.senate.gov	202-224-2921	Crime and law enforcement; Emergency management; Government operations and politics; Guns; International affairs; Telecommunications
Anna	Cullen	GA	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	anna_cullen@ossoff.senate.gov	202-224-3521	Foreign trade and international finance; Labor and employment; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Thomas	Culver	MT	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	thomas_culver@tester.senate.gov	202-224-2644	Agriculture and food
Beatrix	Dalton	CT	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	beatrix_dalton@blumenthal.senate.gov	202-224-2823	works
Annie	Daly	NY	Democratic	Legislative Aide	annie_daly@schumer.senate.gov	202-224-6542	Agriculture and food; Animals
Wesley	Davis	LA	Republican	Legislative Counsel	wesley_davis@kennedy.senate.gov	202-224-4623	Abortion; Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Crime and law enforcement; Government operations and politics; Guns; Immigration; Law and judiciary; Women's issues
Shelby	Davis-Prettiman	MD	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	shelby_prettiman@vanhollen.senate.gov	202-224-4654	Agriculture and food; Animals; Chesapeake Bay; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources
Alex	De Bianchi	NV	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	alexandrine_debianchi@rosen.senate.gov	202-224-6244	Commerce; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Trevor	Dean	NV	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	trevor_dean@cortezmasto.senate.gov	202-224-3542	Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Education; Science and technology; Small business; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Claire	Descamps	NY	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	claire_descamps@gillibrand.senate.gov	202-224-4451	Agriculture and food; Animals
Andrew	Deshler	WA	Democratic	Legislative Correspondent	andrew_deshler@cantwell.senate.gov	202-224-3441	Science and technology; Telecommunications
Anthony	Diaz	MN	Democratic	Brookings Institution Legis Congressional Fellow	anthony_diaz@klobuchar.senate.gov	202-224-3244	Telecommunications
Ryan	Donnelly	SD	Republican	Legislative Assistant	ryan_donnelly@thune.senate.gov	202-224-2321	Agriculture and food; Animals; Public lands and natural resources
Scott	Duff	KY	Republican	Legislative Assistant	scott_duff@mcconnell.senate.gov	202-224-2541	Appropriations; Commerce; Economics and public finance; Small business
Brendan	Duke	CO	Democratic	Senior Adviser	brendan_duke@bennet.senate.gov	202-224-5852	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Small business; Taxation
Sam	duPont	DE	Democratic	Economic Policy Adviser	sam_dupont@coons.senate.gov	202-224-5042	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; Labor and employment; Small business; Taxation; Transportation and public works
Jordan	Ebert	SC	Republican	Banking and Consumer Finance Counsel Republican	jordan_ebert@banking.senate.gov	202-224-7391	Consumer affairs; Economics
Angela	Ebiner	CA	Democratic	Policy Adviser	angela_ebiner@padilla.senate.gov	202-224-3553	Agriculture and food; Environmental protection; Transportation and public works
Callie	Eideberg	MI	Democratic	Senior Professional Staff Member	callie_eideberg@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	conservation

Matthew	Ellison	SC	Democratic	Policy Director	matthew.ellison@mail.house.gov		Appropriations; Commerce; Emergency management; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; International affairs; Social welfare; Taxation; Transportation and public works
Peter	Engel	MN	Democratic	Legislative Aide	peter_engel@smith.senate.gov	202-224-5641	Animals; Telecommunications; Veterans affairs
Rachel	Erlebacher	NM	Democratic	Professional Staff Member	rachel_erlebacher@appro.senate.gov	202-224-8090	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Farm Credit Administration; Food Safety and Inspection Service; Rural conditions and development
Carley	Esser	AR	Republican	Professional Staff Member	carley_esser@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Agricultural insurance; Commodity policy
Adam	Farris	SC	Republican	Deputy Chief of Staff	adam_farris@scott.senate.gov	202-224-6121	Commerce; Taxation
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Josh	Sanders	NJ	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	josh_sanders@menendez.senate.gov	202-224-4744	Agriculture and food; Animals; Arts culture and religion; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Transportation and public works
Maryana	Sawaged	WA	Democratic	Legislative Aide/Mail Manager	maryana_sawaged@murray.senate.gov	202-224-2621	Appropriations; Commerce; Social welfare
Justin	Schardin	CA	Democratic	Legislative Assistant/Economic Policy Adviser	justin_schardin@feinstein.senate.gov	202-224-3841	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Labor and employment; Small business; Social welfare; Taxation
Rebecca	Schatz	NJ	Democratic	Legislative Director	rebecca_schatz@menendez.senate.gov	202-224-4744	Commerce; Economics and public finance
Adam	Schiff	MN	Democratic	Agriculture Legislative Assistant	adam_schiff@smith.senate.gov	202-224-5641	Agriculture and food
James	Schindler	TX	Republican	Counsel	james_schindler@cruz.senate.gov	202-224-1251	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection
Blake	Schindler	LA	Republican	Policy Adviser	blake_schindler@cassidy.senate.gov	202-224-5824	Commerce; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Transportation and public works
Sydney	Scott	WI	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	sydney_scott@baldwin.senate.gov	202-224-5653	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources
Baz	Selassie	MN	Democratic	Deputy Legislative Director/Legislative Counsel	baz_selassie@klobuchar.senate.gov	202-224-3244	Appropriations; Commerce; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Science and technology; Transportation and public works
Kristina	Sesek	IA	Republican	Legislative Director	kristina_sesek@ernst.senate.gov	202-224-3254	Abortion; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Crime and law enforcement; Government operations and politics; Guns; Immigration; Law and judiciary; Native Americans; Women's issues
Hakan	Seyalioglu	NM	Democratic	Technologist/Policy Adviser	hakan_seyalioglu@lujan.senate.gov	202-224-6621	Animals; Finance and financial sector; Government operations and politics; Housing and community development; Science and technology; Telecommunications
James	Shea	LA	Republican	Legislative Assistant	james_shea@kennedy.senate.gov	202-224-4623	Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources; Telecommunications
Anthony	Sidharta	NY	Democratic	Legislative Correspondent	anthony_sidharta@gillibrand.senate.gov	202-224-4451	Commerce; Emergency management; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Science and technology; Taxation; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Marisa	Silva	NM	Democratic	Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives Direc	marisa_silva@heinrich.senate.gov	202-224-5521	Appropriations; Commerce; Economics and public finance; Housing and community development; Small business
Cody	Sims	SC	Republican	Legislative Assistant	cody_sims@scott.senate.gov	202-224-6121	Agriculture and food; Emergency management; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Josh	Sizemore	MT	Republican	Policy Adviser	josh_sizemore@daines.senate.gov	202-224-2651	Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Energy; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Katie	Skinner	VT	Independent	Legislative Correspondent	katie_skinner@sanders.senate.gov	202-224-5141	Agriculture and food; Animals; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Shannon	Smith	CO	Democratic	Counsel/Senior Consumer Adviser	shannon_smith@commerce.senate.gov	202-224-0411	Consumer affairs; Consumer credit; Consumer electronic equipment; Consumer protection
Emily	Smith	CT	Democratic	Policy Adviser	emily_smith@murphy.senate.gov	202-224-4041	Agriculture and food; Appropriations; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Families; Immigration; Social welfare
Chris	Soghoian	OR	Democratic	Senior Technologist/Senior Adviser Privacy and Cybe	chris_soghoian@wyden.senate.gov	202-224-4515	Cybersecurity; Data privacy and security; Telecommunications
Aaron	Stanislawski	DE	Democratic	Counsel	aaron_stanislawski@coons.senate.gov	202-224-5042	Crime and law enforcement; Emergency management; Guns; Law and judiciary; Telecommunications
Clayton	Stein	FL	Republican	Legislative Correspondent	clayton_stein@rickscott.senate.gov	202-224-5274	Animals; Commerce; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Tucker	Stewart	KS	Republican	Senior Adviser Agriculture Policy	tucker_stewart@marshall.senate.gov	202-224-4774	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Environmental protection; Foreign trade and international finance; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Transportation and public works
Kaitlin	Stoddard	AL	Republican	Legislative Assistant	kaitlin_stoddard@tuberville.senate.gov	202-224-4124	Commerce; Emergency management; Foreign trade and international finance; Government operations and politics; Immigration; Veterans affairs
Mike	Stoever	MI	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	mike_stoever@peters.senate.gov	202-224-6221	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources
Benjamin	Strand	HI	Democratic	Senior Policy Adviser	ben_strand@hirono.senate.gov	202-224-6361	Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Economics and public finance; Education; Families; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Science and technology; Small business; Taxation
Jimmy	Stringer	MS	Republican	Deputy Legislative Director	jimmy_stringer@hydesmith.senate.gov	202-224-5054	Appropriations; Armed forces and national security; Commerce; Foreign trade and international finance; International affairs
Jamie	Susskind	TN	Republican	Policy Adviser	jamie_susskind@blackburn.senate.gov	202-224-3344	Science and technology; Telecommunications
Katie	Sutton	MS	Republican	Professional Staff Member Staff Lead Republican	katherine_sutton@armed-services.senate.gov	202-224-3871	Artificial intelligence; Cybersecurity; Military spectrum management; Science and technology; U.S. Cyber Command
Kevin	Swanson	AK	Republican	Legislative Assistant	kevin_swanson@murkowski.senate.gov	202-224-6665	Appropriations; Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Small business; Taxation; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Sean	Sweeney	VA	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	sean_sweeney@warner.senate.gov	202-224-2023	Commerce; Emergency management; Immigration; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Matt	Swint	TX	Republican	Professional Staff Member	matthew_swint@cruz.senate.gov	202-224-5922	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public
Omair	Taher	MN	Democratic	Economic Policy Adviser	omair_taher@smith.senate.gov	202-224-5641	Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Foreign trade and international finance; Housing and community development; Small business; Social welfare; Taxation
Barrett	Tenbarge	LA	Republican	Senior Counsel Health	barrett_tenbarge@help.senate.gov	202-224-5375	Food and Drug Administration; Health
Megan	Thompson	WA	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	megan_thompson@cantwell.senate.gov	202-224-3441	Agriculture and food; Animals; Environmental protection; Native Americans
Sally	Thompson	MS	Republican	Legislative Assistant	sally_thompson@wicker.senate.gov	202-224-6253	Arts culture and religion; Education; Emergency management; Immigration; Labor and employment; Native Americans; Telecommunications
Zane	Tolchinsky	CA	Democratic	Legislative Correspondent	zane_tolchinsky@feinstein.senate.gov	202-224-3841	Energy; Environmental protection; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Connor	Tomlinson	FL	Republican	Legislative Assistant	connor_tomlinson@rubio.senate.gov	202-224-3041	Agriculture and food; Animals; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources
Ted	Trippi	NH	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	ted_trippi@shaheen.senate.gov	202-224-2841	Government operations and politics; Labor and employment; Social welfare; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Daniel	Ulmer	MS	Republican	Deputy Chief of Staff Policy	daniel_ulmer@hydesmith.senate.gov	202-224-5054	Agriculture and food; Animals; Appropriations
E.J.	Valentine	FL	Republican	Policy Adviser	ej_valentine@rickscott.senate.gov	202-224-5274	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Small business; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Jeff	Van Oot	VT	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	jeff_vanoot@welch.senate.gov	202-224-4242	Agriculture and food; Animals; Commerce; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Small business
Kyle	Varner	MI	Democratic	Senior Professional Staff Member	kyle_varner@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Agricultural insurance; Agricultural prices subsidies and credit; Agricultural trade; Animal health and welfare; Animals; Commodities markets; Commodity policy; Dairy industry; Livestock
Max	Virkus	GA	Democratic	Senior Adviser Economic Policy Staff Director Democ	max_virkus@warnock.senate.gov	202-224-3643	Commerce; Consumer affairs; Consumer protection; Economics and public finance; Finance and financial sector; Housing and community development; Small business; Taxation
Stephen	Voljavec	TN	Republican	Legislative Assistant	stephen_voljavec@blackburn.senate.gov	202-224-3344	Agriculture and food; Animals; Arts culture and religion; Commerce; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Transportation and public works
Harrison	Walker	NC	Republican	Legislative Assistant	harrison_walker@tillis.senate.gov	202-224-6342	Agriculture and food; Animals; Emergency management; Energy; Environmental protection; Public lands and natural resources
Annie	Wang	GA	Democratic	Counsel/Deputy Legislative Director	annie_wang@warnock.senate.gov	202-224-3643	Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Crime and law enforcement; Government operations and politics; Guns; Law and judiciary; Native Americans; Science and technology; Telecommunications
Aaron	Weber	ND	Republican	Legislative Assistant	aaron_weber@hoeven.senate.gov	202-224-2551	Agriculture and food; Animals; Foreign trade and international finance
Henson	Webre	LA	Republican	Legislative Assistant	henson_webre@kennedy.senate.gov	202-224-4623	Agriculture and food; Appropriations; Emergency management; Public lands and natural resources; Science and technology; Telecommunications; Transportation and public works
Braxton	Wenk	AR	Republican	Administrative Director	braxton_wenk@cotton.senate.gov	202-224-2353	Agriculture and food; Guns
Jake	Wessel	KS	Republican	State Agriculture Representative	jake_wessel@moran.senate.gov	785-539-8973	Agriculture and food; Government operations and politics
Holmes	Whalen	OK	Republican	Senior Counsel	holmes_whalen@mullin.senate.gov	202-224-4721	Agriculture and food; Animals; Economics and public finance; Energy; Environmental protection; Guns; Housing and community development; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources; Small business; Transportation and public works
Anna	Whitney	NJ	Democratic	Legislative Aide	anna_whitney@booker.senate.gov	202-224-3224	Agriculture and food; Animals
Nathan	Williams	LA	Republican	Chief Counsel Chief Counsel Republican	nathan_williams@kennedy.senate.gov	202-224-5225	Abortion; Arts culture and religion; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Emergency management; Government operations and politics; Guns; Immigration; Law and judiciary; Native Americans; Science and technology
Andrew	Williams	ID	Republican	Deputy Legislative Director	andrew_williams@crapo.senate.gov	202-224-6142	Agriculture and food; Animals; Emergency management; Energy; Environmental protection; Native Americans; Public lands and natural resources
Tara	Wilson	MA	Democratic	Legislative Assistant	tara_wilson@markey.senate.gov	202-224-2742	Abortion; Agriculture and food; Families; Health; Women's issues
Jeremy	Witte	AR	Republican	Professional Staff Member	jeremy_witte@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Agri-security; Agricultural research and extension; Biosecurity; Biotechnology; Dairy industry; Homeland security; National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility; Specialty crops
Katie	Wood	IA	Republican	Legislative Assistant	katie_wood@ernst.senate.gov	202-224-3254	Arts culture and religion; Education; Emergency management; Families; Health; Science and technology; Social welfare; Telecommunications

Kevin	Wu	OR	Democratic	Domestic Policy Adviser	kevin_wu@wyden.senate.gov	202-224-5244	Agriculture and food; Civil rights and liberties minority issues; Commerce; Education; Government operations and politics; Health; Labor and employment; Social welfare
Lauren	Wustenberg	MI	Democratic	Counsel	lauren_wustenberg@ag.senate.gov	202-224-2035	Agricultural conservation and pollution; Environmental protection; Land use and conservation; Local food systems; Organic crops; Pesticides; Specialty crops

From: Pam Becker
To: "Jeremy_Hoffner@warnock.senate.gov"
Subject: You"re invited: FRS Broadband Tour in North Dakota and Minnesota
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:05:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Jeremy,

Want to better understand how federal broadband programs impact community-based broadband providers and rural Americans? Join the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) in August as we tour eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota and learn about the significance of rural broadband in supporting education, health, commerce, agriculture, and public safety.

The trip will leave from Washington, DC on Tuesday, August 15 and return on Friday, August 18. After landing in Fargo, we will visit rural broadband providers, construction areas for fiber deployment, broadband-enabled farms, telehealth facilities, business opportunity hubs, and have opportunities to learn about a wide variety of rural broadband issues, all while enjoying a beautiful part of the country. A detailed itinerary will be available in the next few weeks.

The trip includes the cost of airfare, transportation within North Dakota and Minnesota, hotel, and food (within federal *per diem* rates) and will comply with all House and Senate ethics rules on privately sponsored travel for Hill staff. We will also follow all local, state, and federal CoVid-19 safety guidelines.

For more information or to reserve a space on the trip, please contact me at pbecker@frs.org or (703) 351-2044. **SPACE IS LIMITED to 20 PARTICIPANTS.** I will also keep a wait list.

Visit https://www.frs.org/programs/congressional-broadband-tour for videos and descriptions of past FRS tours to Montana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Vermont.

The Foundation for Rural Service is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. As the philanthropic arm of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association and its members, FRS seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through scholarships, grants, and a variety of educational programs, FRS focuses on educating rural youth, encouraging community development, and introducing policymakers to challenges unique to rural communities.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

-- 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

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

FRS Congressional Broadband Tour
Minnesota and North Dakota
August 15-18, 2023

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 North Dakota and Minnesota 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 will provide an opportunity for educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving "last mile" areas in rural states.

No registered federal 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—all meals, lodging, and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

7:45 am	Depart Washington, DC (DCA) on American Airlines #2304 to Chicago
10:01 am	Depart Chicago (OHD) on American Airlines #3385 to Fargo, ND
11:55 am	Arrive Fargo (FAR)
12:15 pm	Bus to Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) 3901 Great Plains Dr S Fargo, ND 58104

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch, Broadband 101, and tour of DCN – Over lunch attendees will receive a basic overview to better understand the historical, technical, geographic, and financial issues surrounding rural broadband infrastructure in the United States and especially North Dakota and Minnesota. Attendees will also tour DCN which is owned by 13 independent rural broadband service providers in North Dakota. DCN and its owners have 65,000 miles of fiber deployed across North Dakota. Collectively, DCN employs more than 1,000 people that live and work in North Dakota. DCN owners have a collective total plant investment worth more than $1.4 billion in North Dakota, and they have invested more than $100 million per year in fiber construction for each of the past five years. DCN owners represent all the major local independent broadband service providers and serve customers in nearly 400 communities – more than 85 percent of all the exchanges in the state.

Speakers:

- Seth Arndorfer, Chief Executive Officer, DCN
- Carissa Swenson, Executive Director, Broadband Association of North Dakota
- Brent Christensen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Minnesota Telecom Alliance

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Discussion about the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The Red River is unique due to its low gradient and northward flow. These features also lead to a high flooding risk. Ice melt comes earlier in southern regions, causing ice jams and other conditions that result in flooding nearly every year. This makes the Red River Valley one of the most flood-prone areas in the U.S. Extreme precipitation, two inches or more, has increased in frequency since 1990 and has worsened further since 2015.

Red River flooding in 1997 demonstrated the devastating effects a disaster can have on a single metro area. Damages in Grand Forks, North Dakota and East Grand Forks, Minnesota amounted to $3.5 billion (over $6.4 billion when adjusted for inflation). Knowing that a 100-year or 500-year flood event would likely cause even greater damage to the more-developed Fargo-Moorhead metro area puts flood protection measures in perspective as a worthwhile investment.

The Metro Flood Diversion Authority is responsible for ensuring the safe and timely construction of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion. The public-private partnership, or P3 approach, is the first of its kind for flood management projects in North America, with the working together of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Red River Valley Alliance (RRVA), cities of

	Fargo and Moorhead and Cass and Clay counties to drive construction. The target for delivering permanent, reliable flood protection is 2027. Discussion will include how broadband providers in both North Dakota and Minnesota must contend with the current and projected construction of the flood diversion project as well as potential flood damage from future storms. *Speaker*: • Joel Paulsen, Executive Director, Metro Flood Diversion Authority
3:00 pm	Bus to Polar Communications construction site Evanger Lutheran Church 1311 16th St NE Grand Forks, ND 58201
4:00 – 5:00 pm	**Tour fiber installation construction project** underway by Polar Communications. Polar Communications provides telecommunications services to more than 8,000 subscribers in North Dakota and Minnesota. The company also provides advanced business services such as phone systems, video surveillance, and advanced networking. At the site attendees will see the installation of fiber optic cable and have the opportunity to splice fiber optic cable. Polar Communications has used a variety of federal and local funding sources to expand broadband to underserved locations. *Speakers:* • Karl Blake, General Manager, Polar Communications • Tim Olson, Field Operations Supervisor, Polar Communications
5:00 pm	Bus to hotel Sleep Inn and Suites 1350 S 42nd Street Grand Forks, ND 58201
5:15 pm	Check in at hotel
5:45 pm	Bus to Flood Memorial Monument Third Street and First Avenue North Grand Forks, ND 58203
6:00 – 6:30 pm	**Tour Grand Forks Flood Memorial Park and Monument** to see the location of the Red River Flood of 1997 that resulted in the creation of the Metro Flood Diversion Project presented earlier in the day. Carissa Swenson will continue the discussion about how flooding and the construction project impacts local broadband companies' ability to

maintain and expand services.
Speaker:
- Carissa Swenson, Executive Director, Broadband Association of North Dakota

6:30 pm — Walk to Dinner
Ely's Ivy
22 S 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

8:00 pm — Bus to hotel

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

8:00 am — Breakfast at hotel

8:30 a.m. — Bus to Rice Lake Community Center
13830 Community Loop
Bagley, MN 56621

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. — **Tour Rice Lake Community Center**, owned by the White Earth Reservation which offers several programs including an elder nutrition program, Boys & Girls Club, Head Start, Recovery services, Elder Advocates, counselors, nurses, chemical dependency and more. Garden Valley Technologies, a member-owned Cooperative that has been around for 118 years, began installing fiber-to-the-home in 2005, and now provides fiber service to 100% of its members, including those who live on the White Earth Reservation. The fiber service at the community center is critical for the facility to provide necessary educational, nutritional, and health care services.
Speakers:
- Tim Brinkman, CEO and General Manager, Garden Valley Technologies
- Henry Fox, White Earth Ojibwa Tribal Council Member

11:00 am — Bus to Launch Pad Bemidji
102 1st Street W
Bemidji, MN 56601

12:00 – 2:00 pm — **Lunch and panel discussion about economic development, tribal communities, and the importance of broadband in rural areas** -- With innovative manufacturers, aspiring entrepreneurs and growing retail and services sector, the greater Bemidji region serves as the center for economic development for all of northern Minnesota.

The Red Lake Indian Reservation (Ojibwe: *Miskwaagamiiwi-zaaga'iganing*) covers 1,260.3 sq mi (806,600 acres) in parts of nine counties in northwestern Minnesota. It is made up of numerous holdings but the largest section is an area about Red Lake, in north-central Minnesota, the largest lake in the state. This section lies primarily in the counties of Beltrami and Clearwater. Land in seven other counties is also part of the reservation. The reservation population was 5,506 in the 2020 census. Home to the federally recognized Red Lake Band of Chippewa, it is unique as the only "closed reservation" in Minnesota. In a closed reservation, all land is held in common by the tribe and there is no private property. As of 2011, the Ojibwe language is the official language of Red Lake. Red Lake is among the most isolated reservations in the United States.

Serving the area since 1952, Paul Bunyan Communications is a member-owned broadband cooperative providing fiber optic Internet up to 10 Gig, television, voice, and IT services. Attendees will learn about Paul Bunyan Communication's partnership with the Red Lake Nation, especially in outreach about the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Paul Bunyan Communications has also placed a focus on promoting esports and gaming to attract young people to the telecommunications workforce. (See video about Paul Bunyan Communications signing up people for ACP: https://www.nbcnews.com/fbbb37b7-e235-480e-8440-2e546563704b)

Speakers:

- Dave Hengel, Executive Director, Greater Bemidji
- Glenda Martin, District Representative, Red Lake Nation Tribal Council
- Gary Johnson, CEO and General Manager, Paul Bunyan Communications

2:00 – 2:30 pm **Visit Paul Bunyan and Babe statues and Visitors Center**
300 Bemidji Ave N
Bemidji, MN 56601

As early as the 1890s, Bemidji enjoyed a modest tourist trade. When rail connections were constructed to Bemidji in 1898, promoters began the development of lakeshore sites for cottages, hotels, and resorts. Most of these resorts catered to hunters and anglers. In the 1920s the rise in automobile popularity and affordability contributed to a significant boom in Bemidji's tourist industry, but it suffered during the Great Depression. As a means of stimulating tourism in Bemidji, local civic organizations sponsored a winter carnival meant to promote the city's resources for winter sports. Due to Bemidji's once prominent status as a logging and

lumbering center, the celebrations focused on Paul Bunyan, the larger-than life lumberjack who is an American folk hero. On January 14, 1937 the carnival opened with two giant statues to serve as mascots: one of Bunyan and the other of his giant blue ox, Babe. Paul Bunyan Communications provides the broadband service to the Visitors Center to facilitate sales of items and the live webcam that can be accessed by anybody around the world.
Speaker:

- Gary Johnson, CEO and General Manager, Paul Bunyan Communications

2:30 pm — Bus to Visitors Center Itasca State Park
36750 Main Pk Dr
Park Rapids, MN 56470

3:15—3:30 pm — **Visit the headwaters of the Mississippi River.** The mighty Mississippi River begins its winding journey to the Gulf of Mexico as a mere 18-foot-wide knee-deep river in Itasca State Park. From here the river flows north to Bemidji, where it turns east, and then south near Grand Rapids. It will flow a total of 694 miles before working its way out of Minnesota.

3:30 pm — Bus to **Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association**
800 Central Avenue North
Brandon, MN 56315

5:30 – 6:30 pm — **Visit Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association to learn about the unusual role they play in their community**. Gardonville provides service for four exchanges in west central Minnesota, servicing the towns of Garfield, Brandon, Evansville, Millerville, Erdahl, Leaf Valley and Melby. The cooperative also provides competitive services to the Alexandria, Minnesota area, and in conjunction with Minnesota and Federal grants have built fiber-optic networks in many previously under-served areas. In addition to providing telecommunication services, the company provides a variety of other services including healthcare, public safety, childcare, and a butter creamery.
Speaker:

- Dave Wolf, General Manager, Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association

6:30 pm — Bus to The Depot Smokehouse and Tavern
104 Broadway Street
Alexandria, MN

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Dinner and Panel Discussion about State Broadband Funding and Planning. The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2013 at the same time one of the nation's first broadband grant program was established. The Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband grant program was established in 2014 to help achieve the State's goal of true border to border broadband for all Minnesotans. Dubbed "the Minnesota Model", Minnesota's grant program has been used as a model by several other states and federal programs. The FCC made Minnesota's definition of Unserved (less than 25Mbps download, 3 Mbps upload) and Underserved (25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, but less than 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload) the national standard.

On June 28, 2023 Minnesota was awarded $652 million as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program. It is the intention of Minnesota's administration to run those funds through the existing, proven Border-to-Border Broadband grant program.
Speakers:

- Bree Maki, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development. Bree is the 3rd Executive Director appointed by Governor Walz in October of 2022. Prior to that she was a state staffer for Senators Franken and Smith with a primary focus on Broadband. She has long been an advocate for rural Minnesota serving on the Lewiston-Altura School Board for many years, currently serving as Board Chair. Bree also chairs the Southeast Service Coop, which provides services to school districts in southeastern Minnesota.
- Sen. Torrey Westrom, businessman and member of the Minnesota Senate. A Republican, he represents District 12, which includes all or parts of Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin Counties. He is the first known blind person to be elected to the Minnesota Legislature.
- Rep. Mary Franson, is currently serving her 7th term in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She represents Douglas and part of Stearns Counties. She was first elected in 2010. She currently serves on the Sustainable Infrastructure policy, Capital Investment, and Human Service Finance Committees.

9:00 pm

Bus to Hotel
Holiday Inn Alexandria
5637 Highway 29 S
Alexandria, MN 56308

Thursday, August 17, 2023

8:00 am	Breakfast at the hotel
8:30 am	Bus to Park Region Mutual Telephone Company TV Studio 230 W Lincoln Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537
9:30 – 11:00 am	**Discussion of Broadband and TV Services** at Park Region Mutual Telephone Company. Founded in 1906 to offer telephone services to Dalton and the surrounding area, the company has gone through tremendous technology transformations and continues to place a priority on the technology needs of its customers. The company has expanded over the last 25 years to include Otter Tail Telcom, Valley Telephone, and Rothsay Telephone Company. Park Region has robust TV Operations which play an important role with the local Chamber of Commerce and schools. This stop will also have another opportunity to learn about construction methods and challenges when laying fiber optic cable. *Speaker*: • Dave Bickett, GM and CEO, Park Region
11:00 am	Bus to Wahpeton, ND 86 Dabill Drive Wahpeton, ND 58075
11:15 – 11:30 am	**Visit Wahpper, the World's Largest Catfish sculpture.** Wahpper is on the banks of the Red River within the Kidder Dam Recreation Area. The sculpture is 40 feet long, 12 feet tall (including its pedestal) and weighs more than 5,000 pounds. The Red River is formed by the Bois de Sioux and Otter Tail Rivers, and the headwaters is in Wahpeton; people come from multiple states to fish the river's abundant channel catfish. The fish's name, "Wahpper," is a playful nod towards a very big fish, or a "whopper," combined with the town's name. During the river's spring flooding, the sculpture is surrounded by water, giving the impression the fish is swimming.
11:30 am	Bus to City Brew Hall 120 4th St N Wahpeton, ND 58075
11:45 – 12:45 p.m.	**Lunch and presentation about Red River Communications,** its service area, broadband in North Dakota, and how Red River supports local

businesses. Tom will accompany the tour on the bus to Giants Snacks, pointing out Red River Communications' service territories and current expansion projects along the way.
Speaker:

- Tom Steinolfson, CEO and General Manager, Red River Communications

12:30 — Bus to Giant Snacks
17950 State Rte 13
Wahpeton, ND 58075

12:45 – 2:00 pm — **Tour of Giant Snacks packaging facility** -- Family-owned and operated for nearly two decades, Giant Snacks' history travels all the way back to 1958 when sunflowers were first brought to the Red River Valley. Approximately 75% of the sunflowers raised in the United States are grown in the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Giant Snacks are currently in 28 out of 30 major league baseball dugouts although convenience store sales account for up to 90% of Giant Snacks sales. Broadband is a critical component of the company's success, due to their significant on-line purchasing and distribution operations across the country.
Speakers:

- Jason Schuler, Co-owner, Giant Snacks
- Robert Schuler, Vice President of Marketing, Giant Snacks

2:00 pm — Bus to Kindred High School
225 Dakota Street
Kindred, ND 58051

2:30 – 3:30 pm — **Tour Kindred High School** – Kindred Public School District #2 includes both the high school (grades 7-12) and elementary school (K-6) with a combined total of 885 students and 136 teachers and staff. Attendees will tour the school and discuss how broadband is assisting remote learning for students in rural communities.
Speaker:

- Gina Musland, Technology Coordinator

3:30 pm — Bus to Grand Farm
3729 153rd Ave SE
Wheatland, ND 58079

4:00 – 6:00 pm — **Tour Grand Farm Innovation Campus.** The tour will explore how Grand Farm hopes to advance agriculture technology by creating a robust ecosystem, deploying technology in real world environments and build a

world-class facility for working with partners. Discussion will include work being done by agricultural corporations and startups, learning about the vision for Grand Farm's campus, and all the ways robust broadband assists both small- and large-scale agriculture operations. Grand Farm is creating the prototype for the first fully autonomous farm.

The Grand Farm Education and Research Initiative capitalizes on the region's potential and expertise in the agriculture and technology industries. The Grand Farm Initiative will accelerate the research and innovation into technology which will be present on the farm of the future – impacting North Dakota, the United States, and the World by solving challenges in the agriculture industry and developing new opportunities.

Grand Farm is building a facility where growers, industry, and educators will collaborate on projects to deliver innovative agriculture solutions. Partner organizations of all sizes utilize their test plot land to perform hundreds of research projects every single year. This process is managed by the Grand Farm Program Management Office.
Speakers:

- Brian Carroll, Grand Farm Director, Grand Farm
- Andrew Jason, Ecosystems Director, Grand Farm
- Ann Nobriga, Program Manager of Field Operations, Grand Farm
- William Aderholdt, Director, Program Management Office, Grand Farm

6:00 pm	Bus to BrewHalla 1666 1st Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102
6:30 pm	Dinner at BrewHalla
8:00 pm	Bus to hotel

Holiday Inn Fargo
3803 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103

Friday, August 18, 2023

8:45 am	Bus to Fargo airport
5:27 am	Depart Fargo (FAR) on American Airlines #3352 to Chicago

8:47 am	Depart Chicago (ORD) on American Airlines #1023
11:38 am	Arrive Washington, DC (DCA)