RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

RECEIVED
Date/Time Stamp
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2023 MAY 17 PM 4:29

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):

The Third Way Foundation (PPI is a pr

Travel Dates:

March 16 - March 18, 2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$521	$450	$132	

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.

Date Printed Name of Traveler Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

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

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
+$86 Transportation	$521	Bus price and total taxi/uber adjustment
+$15 Meals	$132	Lunch price adjustment

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

( ) Yes (●) No

Explanation:

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

( ) Yes (●) No

Explanation:

Trip Name: PPI Congressional Staff Delegation Trip to Austin, TX

Organization Information

Organization Name:
The Third Way Foundation (Progressive

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

If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:
[✓] Private Foundation [ ] Public Charity

Address:
1156 15th Street NW

City, State, Zip:
Washington, DC 20005

Phone Number:
202-525-3926

Organization URL:
progressivepolicy.org

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

The Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) has sponsored several Congressional staff and member delegations since its founding in 1989. These educational trips have focused on a wide variety of policy areas and they aim to explore how the issues moving on Capitol Hill have an impact on the real world.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

As of non-profit 501 (c) (3) think-tank, the nature of PPI's work is educational. We release dozens of reports, research, and other policy analysis work annually. PPI also hosts public forums, Congressional staff and member briefings, webinars, roundtables, and other events around issue education.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):

(●) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

[✓] 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.

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

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This trip is a bipartisan, bicameral congressional staff delegation trip to Austin, TX. It will focus on the cutting edge innovation happening in Austin on the issues of electronics recycling, e-waste, and broader clean energy strategies. It will include informative tours and meetings with experts in state and local government, private industry, and academia around these issues.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The trip direclty related to PPI's mission to providing educational programming on important issue areas. The bipartisan nature of the trip also reflects PPI's commitment to the development of pragmatic policy that can help break through partisan gridlock.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

(●) Yes ( ) No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

1.

2.

3.

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- ○ The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- ◉ The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

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

- ☑ 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 (Must select all):

- ☑ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☑ 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 (Select one):

- ◉ 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 (Select one):

- ○ 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 (Must select all):

- ☑ 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.

Will members and staff from the House of Representatives receive invitations?

◉ Yes ○ No

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:	⇄	Trip End Date/Time:
March 16, 2023		March 18, 2023

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

○ Yes ◉ No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: $435 Accompanying Family Member: $N/A)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$345
Bus	-	$50
Ride share/taxi	-	$40

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: $450 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
3/16/23	3/18/23	Courtyard by Marriott Aus	Austin	TX	

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.
2	$225	Yes	Hotel prices are elevated due to the annual South by Southwest conference.

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: $117 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
3/16/23			$30	$4	$34	Austin	TX	Travis	N
3/17/23	$15	$15	$30	$4	$64	Austin	TX	Travis	N
3/18/23	$15			$4	$19	Austin	TX	Travis	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: $-_____ Accompanying Family Member: $-_____)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes

Additional Details (optional)

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: PPI Congressional Staff Delegation Trip to Austin, TX

Travel Date(s): March 16 - March 18, 2023

Travel Destination(s): Austin, TX

Sponsor: The Third Way Foundation (Progressive Policy Institute is a

Lindsay Lewis — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Executive Director — *(title)*



(signature of sponsor representative)

2/10/23 — *(date)*

0000000003508 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

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1156 15th Street NW, Ste 400
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-525-3926
Fax: 202-525-3941
info@ppionline.org

PPI Congressional Staff Delegation Trip to Austin, TX
Thursday, March 16, 2023 – Saturday, March 18, 2023

TRAVEL DAY

Thursday, March 16

5:25 PM	**Flight to Austin, TX** Southwest Flight #2336 DCA-AUS, arrives 8:15 PM local time (non-stop)
8:45 - 9:15 PM	*Travel to hotel - Taxi/rideshare*
9:15 PM	**Check-in to hotel** Courtyard by Marriott, 300 E 4th St, Austin, TX 78701

AUSTIN:

Friday, March 17

7:30 - 8:15 AM	**Breakfast in hotel, receive PPI briefing materials**
8:15 - 9:00 AM	*Travel to Material Recovery Lab - Bus*
9:00 - 11:00 AM	**Presentation and tour of Material Recovery Lab** *30.431646, -97.755947 (North Austin)* Staff will receive a presentation on e-waste and technology recycling innovation from industry representatives at the Material Recovery Lab in North Austin. Following the presentation, a guided tour will be provided which will include a "meeting" with Daisy, a state-of-the-art recycling robot that disassembles and recycles parts from discarded smartphones.
11:15 - 12:00 PM	*Travel to Texas State Capitol – Bus*
12:00 – 1:45 PM	**Luncheon with bipartisan legislature staff from Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment and Energy** 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701 Congressional staff will have the opportunity to meet with their state legislature counterparts to discuss pending legislation and other initiatives concerning energy and environmental issues in Texas.

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1:45 - 2:00 PM *Travel to University of Texas Austin – Taxi/rideshare*

2:00 – 4:00 PM **Energy briefings at University of Texas Austin**
2304 Whitis Ave, Austin, Texas 78712

Congressional staff will receive multiple briefings from leading academics at UT Austin. Staff will visit the UT Austin Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab to discuss research on developing new transparent models and datasets for accurate greenhouse gas emissions across global supply chains. Staff will also visit the UT Austin Energy Institute for a briefing on global energy transition research and research on costs and impacts associated with investment in the United State's aging energy infrastructure.

4:00 - 4:15 PM *Travel to Austin City Hall – Taxi/rideshare*

4:15 - 5:15 PM **Meeting with City of Austin officials to discuss Austin Climate Equity Plan**
301 W 2nd St, Austin, TX 78701

Congressional staff will meet city officials who will provide an overview of the Austin Climate Equity Plan. The plan takes into account the disproportionate burden climate change places on low-income communities and communities of color, and outlines a goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, with a strong emphasis on cutting emissions by 2030.

5:15 – 6:15 PM *Programming break*

6:15 – 6:30 PM *Travel to dinner – Taxi/rideshare*

6:30 – 8:30 PM **Dinner discussion on public opinion polling with Texas Politics Project**
Irene's
506 West Ave, Austin, TX 78701

Congressional staff will meet with representatives from the Texas Politics Project over dinner to discuss their recent non-partisan, statewide polling on energy, climate, and storm response issues conducted in conjunction with the Texas Tribune.

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Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-525-3926
Fax: 202-525-3941
info@ppionline.org

TRAVEL DAY

Saturday, March 18, 2023

10:00 - 10:45 AM	*Travel to airport - Taxi/rideshare*
12:30 PM	**Flight to Washington, DC** Southwest Flight #286 AUS-DCA, arrives at 6:10 PM local time (1 stop)

Invitees:

Annie D'Amato
Professional Staff Member
Senate EPW Committee
annie_d'amato@epw.senate.gov

Jake Kennedy
Professional Staff Member
Senate EPW Committee
jake_kennedy@epw.senate.gov

Lizzie Hunsaker
Energy and Climate Policy Advisor
Sen. Chris Coons
Elizabeth_Hunsaker@coons.senate.gov

Mary-Eileen Manning
Policy Advisor
Sen. Dan Sullivan
mary-eileen_manning@sullivan.senate.gov

Julia Poirier
Policy Advisor, Science and Technology
Rep. Haley Stevens
julia.poirier@mail.house.gov

Alan McQuinn
Professional Staff Member
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
alan.mcquinn@mail.house.gov

Leighton Huch
Policy Director
New Democrat Coalition
leighton.huch@mail.house.gov

Tom Erb
Climate Policy Director
Rep. Scott Peters
tom.erb@mail.house.gov

Koray Rosati
Legislative Aide
Rep. Jake Auchincloss
koray.rosati@mail.house.gov

The U.S. Senate House of Representatives staff members listed above have been invited because of their subject matter expertise on the topics of environmental protection, renewable energy, emissions regulations, e-waste and electronics recycling, science and technology, and other issues that will be covered in the program of this staff delegation trip.

0000000003512 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

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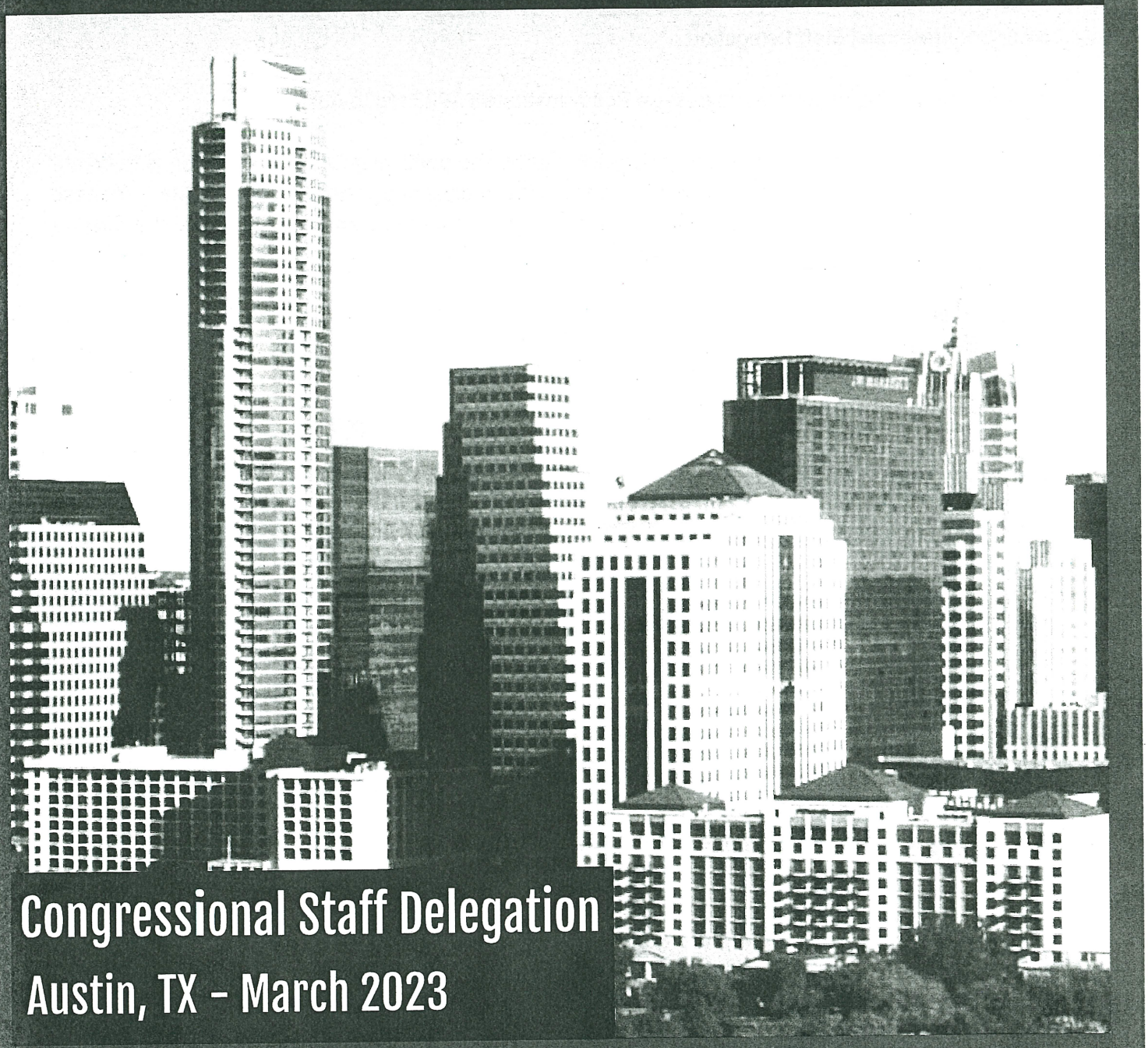

Congressional Staff Delegation

Austin, TX - March 2023

0000000003513 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

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Welcome to PPI's 2023 Trip to Austin, TX

To our Congressional Staff Delegation,

Thank you for joining us for the Progressive Policy Institute's 2023 trip to Austin, TX!

Since 1989, PPI has been a catalyst for policy innovation and political reform. Our mission is to create radically pragmatic ideas for moving America beyond ideological and partisan deadlock. Many of these mold-breaking ideas have been translated into public policy and law and have influenced efforts to modernize progressive politics across the globe.

This trip — our first domestic staff delegation trip since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and 12th staff delegation trip since 2014 — will assemble a standout group of bipartisan, bicameral Congressional staff who are leaders in their respective offices on climate and energy policy issues.

At PPI, we believe it is crucially important for U.S. federal policy experts to step outside Washington and meet with their counterparts at the state and local level. We also deeply believe in the value of connecting policymakers with leaders at America's state-of-the-art research institutions and those working on implementing new and innovative technologies in the private sector.

That's why for this trip we have organized a packed day of meetings and events with high-level state policy staff in the Texas Legislature, officials working on local climate issues at the City of Austin, top researchers and faculty members at UT Austin's Energy Institute and Energy Emissions Modeling & Data Lab, and industry leaders who are tackling e-recyling and climate issues in the private sector.

We have quite an itinerary lined up for our short time in Austin. We will do our best to make sure you get the most out of this experience. We are thrilled you're joining us!

Regards,

Stuart Malec

Director of Government Affairs

TRIP INFORMATION

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BEFORE YOU GO

- Make sure you have your photo ID and boarding pass. Photo IDs may be required for some meetings and events during the trip as well.
- Give yourself ample time to get to Dulles Airport prior to departure. With construction and security delays, we recommend arriving early.
- PPI has provided travel accommodations, lodging, and meal arrangements for your trip. Any additional spending outside of the trip's programming must be on your own.

THINGS TO BRING

- Photo ID
- Notebooks, tablets for note taking during meetings
- You are allowed one personal item, one carry-on suitcase, and one checked bag (but it's just a two night trip!)
- Make sure to pack any medications you may need, comfortable shoes for walking, comfortable clothes, and any other necessities.

DRESS CODE/ATTIRE:

- Business casual with an emphasis on casual. No formal clothes needed for any meeting. Skirts, slacks, button-downs, blouses, polos, khakis, jeans all permissible. **Please wear closed-toe shoes** for Materials Recovery Lab Tour.

NOTE: These are simply recommendations for packing and preparing for the trip. Down time is your personal clothing choice. Pack accordingly.

AUSTIN WEATHER

Average high in mid-March is 75 degrees Fahrenheit, with average lows around 55 degrees Fahrenheit. However as of March 13, the weather looks considerably colder than average with high probability of rain.

We recommend checking the weather immediately prior to the trip and to consider packing an umbrella, rain jacket, and outerwear if necessary.

TRIP INFORMATION

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TRANSPORTATION

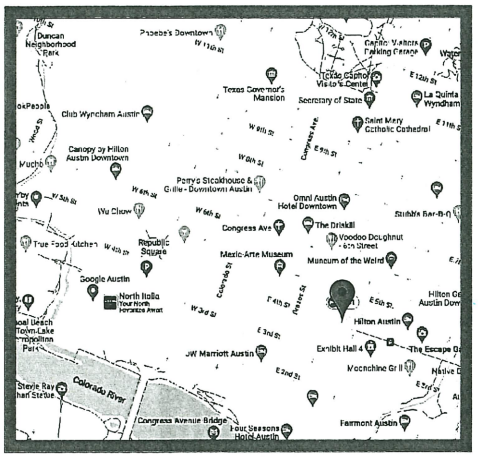
Planes:
United Airlines:
(Outbound) ***Washington Dulles (IAD) to Austin-Bergstrom International (AUS):***
Departs Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:49PM ET, Arrives at 8:29PM |
(Return) **Austin-Bergstrom International (AUS) to Washington Dulles (IAD):** Departs Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 12:20PM, Arrives at 4:21PM
***Note: PPI will provide you with your record locator for this flight.*
Standard economy-fare bag allowances apply. Please remember to weigh your bag before arriving to the airport.

Bus:
On Friday, March 17, travel for the duration of the business day will be done on a private bus, with the exception of dinner which is in walking distance from the hotel.

Taxi/Uber:
PPI staff will organize and assist with ride shares and taxis from the airport upon arriving in Austin and to the airport upon departing.

LODGING

Courtyard by Marriot, 300 E 4th St, Austin, TX 78701 | 512 236 8008



PPI STAFF CONTACTS

Stuart Malec *Government Affairs*	**smalec@ppionline.org** **860-508-8554**
Jasmine Stoughton *Mosaic Project*	**jstoughton@ppionline.org** **512-699-2616**
Elan Sykes *Energy Policy*	**esykes@ppionline.org**

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In the event of a life-threatening medical emergency or other emergency situation, call 911

U.S. House and Senate Resources

House First Call
+1 (202) 225-8000

House First Call
+1 (202) 225-8000

PPI Staff has medical kits for non-emergency situations, including Band-Aids, ice-packs, and more. Contact a PPI staff member at any time of day or night for assistance.

TEAM PPI

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Stuart Malec | Director of Government Affairs

Stuart Malec is the Director of Government Affairs for the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI). Before joining PPI, Stuart directed the press operations for two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as a senior aide to lawmakers sitting on the Energy and Commerce, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Armed Services Committees. Prior to his work in political communications, Stuart led outreach programs for a Congressional district office and worked on state and local political campaigns in New England.



Jasmine Stoughton | Director of PPI's Mosaic Project

Jasmine Stoughton is the director of PPI's Mosaic Project, which aims to put more expert women at the forefront of policy making. Prior to joining PPI, she worked with public, private, and charter school educators as the program director at The Welman Project, a direct service nonprofit organization in Fort Worth, TX.



Elan Sykes | Energy Policy Analyst

Elan Sykes is an Energy Policy Analyst at PPI. Elan works on energy deployment, innovation, and decarbonization. Prior to joining PPI, Elan served as a researcher at the Climate Leadership Council where he focused on carbon pricing, global climate policy, and the intersection of climate and trade policies. Before that, Elan served as an intern at the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.

CONNECT WITH PPI

@ppi

progressivepolicy.org

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Washington, D.C. 20002

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

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Jake Kennedy | Professional Staff Member at United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Jake Kennedy grew up in San Diego, Calif., and studied political science at Bucknell University, where he minored in environmental policy. Today he works as a Professional Staff Member for the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where his portfolio includes policy work related to climate, hazardous waste, and chemical safety. He is also working to earn an MBA from the University of Maryland.



Rachel Hunter | Legislative Assistant for Representative Angie Craig

Rachel is a Legislative Assistant for Representative Angie Craig, covering energy, environment, transportation, infrastructure, government oversight, and LGBTQI+ issues. Originally from a small rural town in southern California, they graduated during the pandemic from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Political Science. They've done advocacy for education policy, campaigned in R+8 districts, and currently is having the time of their life working on the legislative team for a frontliner. While not working, they love to go to book clubs, boulder, and brunch.



Annie D'Amato | Democratic Counsel at United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Annie D'Amato, Democratic Counsel on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, works for Chairman Tom Carper (D-Del). In her role, she helps oversee the Senator's work on water infrastructure, waste management, recycling, sustainability, and environmental justice at the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as issues related to the Economic Development Administration. Prior to working on the Hill, Annie worked in the environmental advocacy space fighting for policies that reduce human exposure to toxic chemicals, protect our food supply, and fight climate change. Annie received her Juris Doctor and Masters in Public Policy from the University of Denver and did her undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin.



Lizzie Hunsaker | Policy Advisor for Senator Chris Coons

Dr. Lizzie Hunsaker serves as Energy and Climate Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), covering energy, climate, and science and technology issues. She previously served as an advisor on clean energy and innovation to Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry and was a 2020-21 American Chemical Society Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow, where she also worked on energy and climate policy for Senator Coons.



Koray Rosati | Legislative Aide for Representative Auchincloss

Koray currently serves as a Legislative Aide for Congressman Jake Auchincloss, handling energy and environmental policy. Prior to his 2 years on the Hill, he worked on the Congressman's first campaign for Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

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Alan McQuinn | Professional Staff Member at Subcommittee on Research and Technology for U.S. House of Representatives

Alan McQuinn is a professional staff member on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. His policy areas include information security, artificial intelligence and data science, microelectronics, telecommunications, surface transportation, technical standards, recycling, and the policy implications of emerging technologies. He was previously a senior policy analyst for the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. McQuinn has a Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations and political communications from the University of Texas at Austin.



Leighton Huch | Policy Director for the New Democrat Coalition

Leighton Huch is the Policy Director for the New Democrat Coalition, where she oversees the implementation of the Coalition's legislative priorities. Prior to joining the New Dems, Leighton worked for former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL) starting in 2017. Most recently, she was the Congresswoman's Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, managing the Congresswoman's overall legislative strategy. Leighton handled several policy issues throughout her time in the office, including defense, energy, environment, foreign affairs, transportation, and infrastructure. Before working on the Hill, Leighton worked for two years in the private sector at Signal Group. Leighton is a graduate of the University of Chicago and was born and raised in Iowa.



Prerna Bhat | Legislative Aide for Senator Elizabeth Warren

Prerna Bhat is an Austin, Texas native currently serving as the Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Legislative Aide for Senator Elizabeth Warren. Prior to her current role, Prerna interned at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and before that served as Deputy AAPI Coalitions Director for the Democratic Party of Georgia's Coordinated Campaign for the Senate Runoff elections and as AAPI Constituency Organizer for the Texas Democratic Party / Biden Coordinated Campaign in Texas, working to build coalitions with local and national stakeholders and increase political engagement of underrepresented communities. Prerna received her AB in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard College, and spent a year as a Harvard Postgraduate Traveling Fellow investigating the intersection of sustainable cacao and vanilla production with community-led wildlife conservation in Madagascar and Malaysia. She subsequently received her Master of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of the Environment, where she studied conservation planning as well as climate communication. She is committed to building strong coalitions and fighting hard for a better future for our country and our planet

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

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Julie Poirier | Science & Technology Policy Advisor for Representative Haley Stevens
Julia Poirier serves as the Science & Technology Policy Advisor for Congresswoman Haley Stevens (MI-11), which includes the energy and environment portfolio. She is responsible for overseeing the Member's legislative priorities as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Previously, she worked for Senator Tammy Baldwin for 6 years with a focus on technology policy. Julia is pursuing a Master of Policy Management degree from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. She earned her B.A. and B.S. from Loyola University of Chicago.



Tom Erb | Legislative Assistant for Representative Scott Peters
Tom is the Climate Policy Director for Congressman Scott Peters (CA-50). He supports the Congressman's energy and climate priorities including reducing methane pollution, building interstate high-voltage transmission lines, expanding clean energy, and combatting wildfires. Prior to Congress, Tom worked at the World Bank and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.



Mary-Eileen Manning | Policy Advisor to Senator Dan Sullivan
Mary-Eileen began work for Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska in 2018, and now serves as a Policy Advisor focusing on environmental and oceans issues. She works on such issues as recycling, preventing and cleaning up marine debris, and preventing illegal fishing. A native of Washington, D.C., she has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in economics. She previously retired from the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer; she spent much of her Foreign Service career overseas in developing countries.

SCHEDULE

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Note:

- *All times are local time*

Thursday, March 16, 2023

5:35PM ET — **Delegation Departs Dulles International Airport**
Washington Dulles International Airport: 1 Saarinen Circle, Dulles, VA 20166
United Flight #1858 from IAD → AUS
***Note**: YOU are responsible for getting to IAD*
Staff Contact: Elan Sykes (Elan will be on the plane)

8:45PM to 9:15PM CT — Travel to Hotel -Taxi/Rideshare
***Note**: Elan and Jasmine will arrange transportation*
Staff Contact: Elan Sykes

9:15 PM — **Check-in to Hotel**
Courtyard by Marriott, 300 E 4th St, Austin, TX 78701
Staff contact: Stuart Malec (Stu will be at hotel)

Friday, March 17, 2023

7:30AM to 8:15PM — **Breakfast at Hotel Restaurant with PPI Staff**
Champions Restaurant & Sports Bar, 300 E 4th St Suite 1, Austin, TX 78701

Stuart Malec, Jasmine Stoughton and Elan Sykes of PPI will give welcoming remarks, provide an overview of the trip, conduct a full walk-through of the day's agenda, and answer any questions from congressional staff.

8:15 AM to 9:00AM — Travel to Material Recovery Lab Presentation - Bus

9:00 AM to 9:45AM — **Material Recovery Lab: Pre-Tour Presentation**
Apple Campus, 5505 W. Parmer Lane, Austin TX

Congressional staff will receive a presentation at Apple's Austin campus on the company's environmental goals and efforts, including the role of resource recovery and recycling. Presentation will be led by Meghan Stasz, Circular Economy Policy Lead; and Patrick Wieler, Manager, Closed Loop Technology Development.

9:45AM to 10:00AM — Travel to Material Recovery Lab Tour - Bus

10:00AM to 11:00AM — **Material Recovery Lab: Tour**
30.431646, -97.755947 (North Austin)

Following the welcome and overview, congressional staff will travel to Apple's Material Recovery Lab for a behind-the-scenes tour — including the opportunity to meet Daisy, a state-of-the-art recycling robot. Daisy can take apart up to 200 iPhone devices per hour, removing and sorting components.

SCHEDULE

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Note:

- *All times are local time*

11:15AM to 12:00PM — Travel to Texas Capitol - Bus

12:00PM to 1:30PM

Luncheon with Bipartisan Legislative Staff from Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment and Energy

Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

Patricia Zavala, Executive Director of the Caucus, will open lunch with brief remarks on the work of the caucus and legislative outlook. Congressional staff will then have at networking lunch with state legislature counterparts to discuss pending legislation and other initiatives concerning energy and environmental issues in the Texas State Legislature.

1:30PM to 2:00PM — Travel to University of Texas Austin - Bus

2:00PM to 4:00PM

Briefings at University of Texas Austin

UT Austin, Ernest Cockrell Jr. Hall (ECJ Building), Room 10.206 (Dean's Conference Room), 301 E. Dean Keeton St., Austin, TX 78712

Congressional staff will receive two briefings from leading academics at UT Austin. Staff will hear from Professors David Allen and Arvind Ravikumar of the UT Austin Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab who will discuss their research on developing new transparent models and datasets for accurate greenhouse gas emissions across global supply chains. Staff will then hear from UT Austin Energy Institute Director Brian Kogel on global energy transition research and research on costs and impacts associated with investment in the United State's aging energy infrastructure.

4:00PM to 4:15PM — Travel to City of Austin meeting - Walk

4:15PM to 5:15PM

Meeting with City of Austin Officials to discuss Climate Equity Plan and Sustainability Initiatives

UT Austin, Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building (GLT Building), Room 4.102, 210 E 24th St, Austin, TX 78712

Congressional staff will meet several officials from the City of Austin who will provide an overview of the Austin Climate Equity Plan and other sustainability and energy initiatives at the City. The Climate Equity Plan takes into account the disproportionate burden climate change places on low-income communities and communities of color, and outlines a goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, with a strong emphasis on cutting emissions by 2030.

5:15PM to 5:30PM — Travel to hotel - bus

SCHEDULE

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6:15PM to 6:30PM — Travel to dinner - Rideshare (or 9 minute walk)

6:30PM to 8:30PM — **Dinner Discussion with Industry, Academia, Government and Media**
Roaring Fork, 701 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

Congressional staff will reconvene with several experts from industry, academia, and government from programming early in the day for a dinner discussion. Also joining the dinner will be Erin Douglas, a Climate Reporter at the Texas Tribune. Dinner will be off-the-record.

Saturday, March 18, 2023

8:30AM to 10:00AM — **Breakfast at hotel with PPI Staff**
Champions Restaurant & Sports Bar, 300 E 4th St Suite 1, Austin, TX 78701

Congressional staff will debrief the trip, discuss lessons learned, and have an opportunity to ask final questions to PPI staff.

10:00AM to 10:45AM — Travel to airport - Taxi/rideshare

12:20PM — **Flight to Washington, DC**
United Flight #400 AUS-IAD, arrives at 4:21PM local time

0000000003523 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

Memo: Material Recovery Lab

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Logistics:
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Location: Apple Campus (5505 W. Palmer Lane) and Material Recovery Lab (30.431646, -97.755947)

Overview:
Congressional staff will receive a presentation at Apple's Austin campus on the company's environmental goals and efforts, including the role of resource recovery and recycling. Presentation will be led by Meghan Stasz, Circular Economy Policy Lead; and Patrick Wieler, Manager, Closed Loop Technology Development. Following the welcome and overview, congressional staff will travel to Apple's Material Recovery Lab for a behind-the-scenes tour — including the opportunity to meet Daisy, a state-of-the-art recycling robot. Daisy can take apart up to 200 iPhone devices per hour, removing and sorting components.

Agenda:
9:00 AM – PPI and congressional staff arrive at Apple Campus

9:10 AM – Brief opening remarks from PPI's Stuart Malec to introduce delegation and thank Apple for hosting

9:15 AM – Welcoming remarks and overview of Apple's environmental goals and resource recovery efforts from Meghan Stasz

9:40 AM – Brief Q&A opportunity

9:50 AM – Board bus to Material Recovery Lab

10:00 AM – Arrive at Material Recovery Lab for a guided tour led by Patrick Wieler

11:00 AM – Guided tour concludes, PPI and congressional staff depart

Speakers:

Meghan Stasz, Circular Economy Policy Lead

Patrick Wieler, Manager, Closed Loop Technology Development

Memo: Texas Capitol Luncheon

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Logistics:
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM
Location: Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701, Room: Legislative Conference Center

Overview:
Patricia Zavala, Executive Director of the Caucus, will open lunch with brief remarks on the work of the caucus and legislative outlook. Congressional staff will then have at networking lunch with state legislature counterparts to discuss pending legislation and other initiatives concerning energy and environmental issues in the Texas State Legislature.

Agenda:
12:00 PM – PPI and congressional staff arrive at the Texas Capitol, greeted by Meghan Doyle

12:10 PM – Opening remarks by Jasmine Stoughton, staff introductions

12:15 PM – Remarks by Patricia Zavala, Executive Director of the Texas Climate Caucus

12:30 PM – Q&A

12:45 PM – Attendees mingle and eat lunch

1:30 PM – PPI and congressional staff depart

Speakers:



Meghan Doyle | Legislative Director for Rep. Shawn Thierry
Meghan Doyle is the Legislative Director for Texas Democrat Rep. Shawn Thierry. Before joining the State House, Doyle was a Civics and Language Arts teacher in Massachusetts, and before that, Doyle was a member of the Teach for America 2020 Corps.

Doyle graduated Magna Cum Laude from Tulane University with a Bachelors of Arts in History and Political Science. Doyle also received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Teaching from Boston University in August of 2022. Before graduating Tulane, Doyle was a intern with US Representative Matt Cartwright (PA-08).



Patricia Zavala | Executive Director of Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment and Energy
Patricia Zavala is Executive Director of the bipartisan Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment and Energy, a bipartisan legislative caucus that aims to reduce pollution while creating jobs and growing the economy. Members of the caucus are elected officials in the Texas Legislature that are invested in developing environmental and energy solutions for their constituents.

Memo: Briefings at UT Austin

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Logistics:
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Location: UT Austin Main Campus, 301 E. Dean Keeton St., Ernest Cockrell Jr. Hall (ECJ Building), Room 10.206 (Dean's Conference Room)

Overview:
Congressional staff will receive two briefings from leading academics at UT Austin. Staff will hear from Professors David Allen and Arvind Ravikumar of the UT Austin Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab who will discuss their research on developing new transparent models and datasets for accurate greenhouse gas emissions across global supply chains. Staff will then hear from UT Austin Energy Institute Director Brian Kogel on global energy transition research and research on costs and impacts associated with investment in the United State's aging energy infrastructure.

Agenda:
2:00 PM – PPI and congressional staff arrive

2:05 PM – Opening remarks from PPI's Elan Sykes to introduce delegation and thank UT for hosting

2:10 PM – Welcoming remarks from UT Austin (Arvind?)

2:15 PM – Briefing from Arvind Ravikumar and David Allen, Co-Director of Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab

2:45 PM – Q&A with staff

3:00 PM – Briefing from Brian Korgel, Director of UT Austin Energy Institute

3:30 PM – Q&A with staff

4:00 PM – PPI and congressional staff depart

Speakers:



Arvind Ravikumar | Co-Director, Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab
Dr. Ravikumar received his from Ph.D. from Princeton University developing infrared lasers and sensors to detect trace gases in the atmosphere. He was also a postdoc in the Energy Resources Engineering department at Stanford University. In addition to his position at UT, Dr. Ravikumar is also a non-resident fellow with the Payne Institute for Public Policy at the Colorado School of Mines.

His research and teaching focuses on technical and policy solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the global energy sector. They employ an interdisciplinary approach that integrates field work, modeling, and policy analysis to answer critical questions around our energy future across space and time. Their current geographic focus is on North America with a growing interest in its linkages to global energy trade. They welcome people from a variety of backgrounds including atmospheric scientists, engineers, economists, and public policy experts to push the frontiers of energy and climate policy research.

Memo: Briefings at UT Austin

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David Allen | Melvin H. Gertz Regents Chair in Chemical Engineering

David Allen, Ph.D. is a world-renown expert in the energy field and our primary instructor for the upcoming Methane Emissions in the Natural Gas Supply Chain course. As the Melvin H. Gertz Regents Chair in Chemical Engineering, Allen has made vast contributions to the university's teaching, research and service missions in areas such as air quality and environmental sustainability.

Allen is the author of seven books and over 250 papers, primarily on urban air quality, the engineering of sustainable systems, and the development of materials for environmental and engineering education. He has been a lead investigator for multiple air quality measurement studies, which have had a substantial impact on the direction of air quality policies. He directs the Air Quality Research Program for the State of Texas, and he is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the American Chemical Society's journal ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering.

He has developed environmental educational materials for engineering curricula and for the university's core curriculum, as well as engineering education materials for high school students. Allen led the development of a year-long high school engineering course, Engineer Your World, which is used in hundreds of high schools nationwide.



Brian Korgel | Rashid Engineering Regents Chair

Brian A. Korgel is the Director of The University of Texas at Austin Energy Institute and the Rashid Engineering Regents Chair Professor in the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering. He also directs the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) for a Solar Powered Future (SPF2050), the Nanotechnologies area of the UT Austin Portugal Program at UT, and serves as Associate Editor of the journal, Chemistry of Materials. He is a former Fulbright Fellow and has been Visiting Professor at the University of Alicante in Spain, the Université Josef Fourier in France and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from UCLA in 1997 and was a post-doctoral fellow at University College Dublin, Ireland, in the Department of Chemistry. He has given more than 260 invited talks and published more than 280 papers. He is also an artist, exploring language and human/technology cohabitation.

He has co-founded two companies, Innovalight and Piñon Technologies, and received various honors including the 2012 Professional Progress Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and election to Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Memo: Meeting with Sustainability Staff

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Logistics:
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023
Time: 4:15 – 5:15 PM
Location: UT Austin, Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building (GLT Building), Room 4.102, 210 E 24th St, Austin, TX 78712

Overview:
Congressional staff will meet officials from the City of Austin who will provide an overview of the Austin Climate Equity Plan and detail the city's other climate and sustainability initiatives.

Agenda:
4:15 PM - Arrive at GLT Building, Opening remarks by Jasmine Stoughton

4:20 PM - Jason will follow with opening remarks from the City of Austin

4:25 PM - Shannon will give an overview Austin's Climate Equity Plan and other sustainability efforts being made by the City of Austin

4:30 PM - Gena will talk about Austin's Resource Recovery program and the city's waste management efforts

4:35 PM - Heather, Teresa and Sherri will give an overview of Austin's water policies, as well as detail the short and long term conservation efforts

4:40 PM - Katie will finish the formal introductions and discuss her work at Austin's Watershed Protection Department

4:45 PM - Roundtable discussion; open the conversation up for Q&A

5:15 PM - Meeting ends; travel back to the hotel

Speakers:
- **Jasmine Stoughton**, PPI
- **Jason Alexander**, City of Austin Chief of Staff
- **Shannon Stewart**, Communications Manager at City of Austin Office of Sustainability
- **Gena McKinley**, Assistant Director, Austin Resource Recovery
- **Heather Cooke**, Chief Administrative Officer at Austin Water
- **Teresa Lutes**, Senior Managers at Austin Water
- **Sherri Kuhl**, Senior Managers at Austin Water
- **Katie Coyne**, Assistant Director and Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department at the City of Austin

Memo: Dinner Discussion

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Logistics:
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Location: 701 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701

Overview:
Congressional staff will reconvene with several experts from industry, academia, and government from programming early in the day for a dinner discussion. Also joining the dinner will be Erin Douglas, a Climate Reporter at the Texas Tribune. Dinner will be off-the-record.

Agenda:
6:30 PM - Arrive at the Roaring Fork, take seats

6:45 PM - Welcoming remarks by Stu Malec

6:50 PM - Dinner and discussion

8:30 PM - Dinner ends; leave the Roaring Fork



Erin Douglas | Texas Tribune Climate Reporter
Erin Douglas is the climate reporter for The Texas Tribune. She was previously a business and economy reporter at the Houston Chronicle where she covered labor, energy and the environment. She studied journalism and economics at Colorado State University, and her first newsroom job was interning at The Denver Post, her hometown newspaper. Based in Austin, Erin is always planning her next road trip.

Sarah Perez | TechCrunch | April 18, 2019

Apple expands global recycling programs, announces new Material Recovery Lab in Austin

Apple announced today a further investment in its recycling programs and related e-waste efforts, which includes an expansion of its recycling program for consumers and the announcement of a new, 9,000-square-foot Material Recovery Lab based in Austin, Texas, focused on discovering future recycling processes. The company also reported the success of its existing efforts around recycling and refurbishing older Apple devices, and keeping electronic waste from landfills.

The expansion of the recycling program will quadruple the number of locations in the U.S. where consumers can send their iPhones to be disassembled by Daisy, the recycling robot Apple introduced last year — also just ahead of Earth Day.

The robot was developed in-house by Apple engineers, and is able to disassemble different types of iPhone models at a rate of 200 iPhones per hour.

Daisy can now disassemble and recycle used iPhones returned to Best Buy stores in the U.S. and KPN retailers in the Netherlands. Customers can also send in iPhones for recycling through the Apple Store or through Apple's Trade In program online.

When Daisy was first introduced, it could disassemble nine iPhone models. Now it can handle 15. This allows Apple to recover parts for re-use. That includes iPhone batteries, which are now sent back upstream in Apple's supply chain where they're combined with scrap, allowing cobalt to be recovered for the first time.

Apple also uses 100 percent recycled tin in the main logic boards of 11 products, and notes its aluminum alloy made from 100 percent recycled aluminum reduced the carbon footprint of the new MacBook Air and Mac mini by nearly half.

Apple says Daisy can disassemble 1.2 million devices per year, and it has received nearly a million devices through its various programs.

It also in 2018 refurbished more than 7.8 million Apple devices for resale, and diverted more than 48,000 metric tons of electronic waste from landfills.

This year, aluminum recovered through Apple's Trade In program will be remelted into the enclosures for the MacBook Air.

The company announced today another significant investment in its recycling efforts with the opening of a Material Recovery Lab in Austin, which will work with Apple engineers and academia on coming up with more solutions to recycling industry challenges. The lab also houses large equipment, typically found at e-waste facilities, to aid in this research (see above).

"Advanced recycling must become an important part of the electronics supply chain, and Apple is pioneering a new path to help push our industry forward," said Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives, in a statement. "We work hard to design products that our customers can rely on for a long time. When it comes time to recycle them, we hope that the convenience and benefit of our programs will encourage everyone to bring in their old devices."

Along with the news around recycling efforts, Apple also released its 2019 Environment report, which contains additional information on the company's climate change solutions.

On Earth Day (April 22), Apple will host environmentally themed sessions at its stores and feature environmentally conscious apps and games on its App Store collections.

0000000003531 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ben Thompson | Community Impact | Sept 28, 2021

New Austin climate plan would shave decade off city's emissions goal; target racial, economic, environmental equity

City Council is set to vote on a new climate plan that aims to speed up Austin's path to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and address the disproportionate effects climate change has on lower-income and minority communities, officials and planners said.

The proposed Austin Climate Equity Plan covers more than a dozen goals in service of emissions reductions over the coming decades and could be approved by council Sept. 30.

Building off Austin's 2015 Community Climate Plan, the new climate document calls for the city to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040—a full decade ahead of the target of 2050 set by council in 2014. The city defines net-zero emissions as the point when all local greenhouse gas emissions, such as those from fossil fuels, agriculture and landfills, are removed from the atmosphere through reductions, storage or carbon offset credits.

The plan's wide-ranging goals are connected by several approaches: expanding green jobs and community environmental programs, collaborating with other local cities and counties, and moving forward on carbon reduction projects. Planners said the aims of those strategies all tie into a framework of racial equity needed to tackle climate issues locally.

"If we are not proactively addressing equity and centering it in our ability to address climate change, we, too, would be perpetuating injustice. And there isn't a world where we can fix climate change and still have equity concerns," Climate Program Manager Zach Baumer told council members during a briefing on the blueprint.

Climate, equity goals

The plan calls for the city to pursue 17 central goals on the path to net-zero emissions to be completed by 2030, 10 years ahead of its overall emissions objective and on a timeline Baumer called "aggressive but realistic."

"This is a big step. Many cities across the world, many U.S. cities, are now increasing the urgency of their targets of the 2040 [goals] and even earlier than 2040. So we think this is an important step for this plan and for the city to move forward to a more aggressive target," Baumer said.

Some of the plan's broader topics and focused goals include:

- transportation electrification: increase the number of vehicle miles traveled in the city via electric modes of transportation; equitably distribute new electric vehicle charging stations;
- transportation and land use: increase the number of trips taken by walking, biking, using public transit and carpooling; locate most new nonresidential development in activity centers and corridors;
- sustainable building: power new buildings with renewable sources for net-zero carbon status; cut the carbon footprint of building materials used for projects in the city; reduce local water demand;
- food consumption and product consumption: ensure access to community-driven food system; aggressively take on waste reduction; and
- natural systems: protect 500,000 new acres of Central Texas farmland; boost citywide tree canopy coverage.

The goals laid out in the document were crafted using an equity tool to workshop ideas in line with stakeholders' vision for the plan and related equity push. After hearing the Sept. 28 briefing, District 2 Council Member Vanessa Fuentes pointed to the plan's focus on equity and how the concept ties to local issues related to climate shifts and environmental resources.

"We often talk about climate change as the great equalizer, but we know that climate change, when it happens, does not affect everyone equally. And it's our low-income, our communities of color that are disproportionately affected and disproportionately bear the impact of climate change," Fuentes said. "What I like about this plan is that it truly does center racial equity in everything that it does. ... When we implement this plan, we need to always keep that at the forefront."

Dozens of local residents, organizations and staff from an array of city departments provided input for the project. More than 1,500 community members also submitted input through a survey, and 25 city boards and commissions were briefed before the plan headed to City Council. The full draft plan with detailed goal breakdowns may be viewed here.

Implementation and outreach

Baumer and other planners presented the draft document to council members during a Sept. 28 work session ahead of a final vote, when it is likely to be approved. Alongside the plan itself, a companion resolution detailing actions the city manager's office should take to ensure the city meets its goals has the support of a majority of council, including its main sponsor, District 10 Council Member Alison Alter.

"This plan is again, only as good as the implementation. And in the plan it calls for some specific next steps as well that complement what's in, and are reinforced by, this resolution," Alter said.

That resolution includes direction for City Manager Spencer Cronk to find pieces of the climate plan that can be pursued in the short term through both unfunded city actions and budgeted investments in future months and years. If approved, Cronk would also return to council on a quarterly basis to report on the plan's rollout.

Resident engagement would also continue as the plan is put into place with ongoing opportunities for feedback and the creation of a new public website or dashboard to track the city's progress.

Officials took time to note Austin's place in the Central Texas region as well and said actions taken through the plan should also spread to include neighboring entities.

"We need the entire community to be supportive of this, but we are leaders as the city of Austin in helping to support those efforts and lead those efforts," Cronk said.

The plan is conceptual as proposed, and it does not include a cost breakdown for its implementation. Baumer said a funding outline with cost estimates would likely follow the plan's approval in the coming months or early next year.

Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment, and Energy

About

The Texas Caucus on Climate, Environment and Energy is a bipartisan legislative caucus that aims to reduce pollution while creating jobs and growing the economy. Members of the caucus are elected officials in the Texas Legislature that are invested in developing environmental and energy solutions for their constituents.

Bipartisan Education

The Energy and Climate Caucus provides scientifically backed, unbiased information and training to its members so they can make the best decisions to benefit Texans.

We believe in going beyond partisanship and depoliticizing the conversations about energy and the environment. At the end of the day, we all want the same things such as clean air, clean water, good jobs and reliable, affordable energy. So, we believe in putting politics aside to learn about our complex energy, water and food nexus and develop sustainable solutions.

The bipartisan training and education we offer to our members is provided in a variety of formats such as: briefings, workshops, forums and site visits to pertinent locations for hands-on learning.

We host events and provide information on topics including but not limited to the following:

- Conservation - Land and Water Use
- Demand Response
- Distributed Energy Resources
- Energy Markets
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Deployment
- Electricity - Transmission, Congestion, Distribution
- Electricity - Smart grids, Microgrids
- Energy & the Environment - Air, Land, Water
- Energy & the Environment - Equity, Sustainability, and Climate Change
- Fossil Fuels - Coal, Oil, and Natural Gas
- Fossil Fuels - Midstream and Downstream
- Grid Resiliency - Weather Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events
- Manufacturing and Petrochemical Industry - Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction
- Market Design and Emerging Technology
- Transportation Sector - Uses by Transport Mode, Electrification, Biofuels

Policy Innovation

The Energy and Climate Caucus provides its members with resources for policy design and development that result in better problem solving of complex issues.
The caucus has a Partnership Program that helps inform policymaking and spurs policy innovation. Through the partnership program, the Caucus receives valuable insight from professionals and subject matter experts in specific fields. The information and data provided by the partners is compiled in a policy clearinghouse used to develop a menu of policy solutions. Our partners fall into one of the three categories below.

- Industry and Technology Partners
  - Industry and Technology partners bring expertise from the private sector and share innovations in technology and industry.
- Academic and Research Partners
  - Academic and Research partners disseminate the newest and most cutting-edge research findings from the state's top academic institutions.
- Advocacy and Community Partners
  - Advocacy and Community partners provide unique perspectives of the issues and concerns of everyday Texans and contribute valuable community input.

This program effectively enables its members to identify and take advantage of "windows of opportunity" – spaces where a public mandate, political alignment and broader public interest intersect for effective change to happen.

Leadership Development

The Energy and Climate Caucus offers leadership development opportunities for freshman up to senior level policymakers who have an interest in developing their staff's and their own expertise of environment and energy policy. Texas is the country's largest energy producer and many elected officials have robust energy communities in their districts. Electeds need to understand the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector to best serve their constituents.

Through a collaboration with PowerHouse Texas, members will have the opportunity to participate in an Energy Policy Fellowship program and have a Policy Fellow provide support throughout the legislative session. The members, staff and fellows will delve into nuanced policy discussions, expand their knowledge-base and network of energy policy leaders.

0000000003536 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

Paul Bledsoe and Elan Sykes | PPI | Sept 21, 2022

AMERICA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION REQUIRES PERMITTING REFORM: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

ppi radically pragmatic

Introduction

The Biden Administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress have earned plaudits for enacting unprecedented funding for clean energy incentives and climate protection. These include provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure law (IIJA), the U.S. competitiveness legislation (CHIPS), sections of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and other legislation, totaling approximately $514 billion in new spending on clean energy and climate, not including other related infrastructure funding.[1] Taken together, these new laws represent the greatest investment in new U.S. energy infrastructure in nearly a century.

And yet, because of regulatory roadblocks and nuisance litigation, it is unclear that this new funding will deliver on its two policy goals:

1) Rapid, low-cost build out of a powerhouse, world-leading U.S. clean energy sector.

2) Large reductions in domestic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) necessary to put the U.S. in a vanguard position to force emissions reductions by other key emitting nations globally.[2]
America must lead the world as a whole toward a rapid clean energy revolution and decarbonization. But a big obstacle stands in our way:

A broken domestic U.S. energy permitting system that imposes tremendously high costs in time and money to build clean energy infrastructure projects, if they get built at all.

Ironically, in the name of environmental protection, a perverse process has set in whereby often unnecessary and duplicative government reviews and nuisance lawsuits have pushed average time for permitting to 4.3 years for transmission, 3.5 years for pipelines, and 2.7 years for renewable energy generation projects. Notably, these numbers don't include those many hundreds of projects that are abandoned and never built because costs — often in the millions or tens of millions — and delays have become too burdensome for developers. These long, costly delays and false starts are simply not consistent with a rapid and cost-effective build out of U.S. clean energy generation and transmission, new hydrogen and carbon management infrastructure, or deep reductions in domestic GHG emissions in keeping with U.S. policy goals and climate science. In fact, initial studies note that without permitting and regulatory reforms, projected climate and economic benefits of these recent laws would be artificially limited and fail to meet policy goals.[3],[4]

Equally, the potential economic and climate upsides for the U.S. of the actions recommended in this report are tremendous. Multiple studies[5],[6] show the IIJA, CHIPS and especially IRA new laws hold remarkable U.S. economic promise, including:

Growing the overall U.S. economy and new clean energy sector worth trillions each year;[7] creating millions of good, new jobs;[8] reducing consumer and business energy costs by 4% or $50 billion by 2050, while saving the average households hundreds of dollars each year;[9] and expanding U.S. technology and energy exports.

Reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions approximately 40% by 2030 below 2005 levels;[10],[11] the IRA bill alone would enable the U.S. to close 50% to 66% of the emissions gap between business-as-usual emissions and the Biden goal of 50% emissions reduction by 2030.[12] Together, the three new laws will help cut the near and long-term costs of climate change impacts and lower threats to public safety; protect worker productivity; improve public health and reducing health care costs; [13] enhance national and global security; and increase long-term U.S. competitiveness in the fast-growing global clean energy economy that will be worth tens of trillions of dollars during the 21st century.
But major studies that find large economic, clean energy, and climate benefits all assume significant improvements in clean energy project permitting and regulatory streamlining. Respected analysis also finds that to ensure these major benefits occur, and to maximize all potential economic and climate benefits[14] will require additional actions by the Administration and Congress.

When Senators Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., announced that they had come to an agreement to pass the investments in energy and healthcare that became the Inflation Reduction Act, they also agreed to push for reforms aimed at speeding up the lengthy federal environmental review and permitting process. A draft summary of the deal proposes a prioritization process for strategically important projects, changes to review timelines and litigation rules, and reforms for certain projects and project-types.

The Manchin-Schumer proposal offers a path forward for the crucial reforms amid a narrowing window of opportunity for action this Congress. Leading Democratic climate hawks in the Senate, including Senators Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who helped designed the clean energy tax credit package that formed the core of the IRA's climate component, have endorsed the call for swifter regulatory review and permitting of clean energy projects.

Unfortunately, however, the proposal has drawn fire from some far-left environmental groups and progressive activists. In the House, 77 members, most members of the left-wing Progressive Caucus, signed a letter arguing that permitting reform should not be included as part of a must-pass government funding bill, and may undermine efforts to improve environmental justice. Several senators, including Senators Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., have leveled similar concerns. Such fears are overwrought. There's a growing consensus among environment analysts that slow regulatory review in fact creates environmental as well as other costs, and that slowing climate change is the most crucial goal of environmental justice.[15] Many of the key Manchin-Schumer proposals regarding NEPA administration, electric transmission, and hydrogen merely extend the benefits of existing law on infrastructure permitting, widening the scope of FAST-41 support through the Permitting Council to cover more energy projects and provide additional resources to coordinate and complete their reviews efficiently at a time where timely energy infrastructure deployment is of the utmost economic, political, and climate importance.[16]

The Manchin-Schumer proposals would not eviscerate environmental protections. Rather, in most cases, it will simply codify existing NEPA and other provisions, like those allowing simultaneous agency reviews, and greater use of the categorical exclusion process, already allowed under current law, as noted by leading Democratic siting expert Daniel Adamson.[17]

The proposal would also bring the U.S. in line with other advanced countries, notably the EU and Canada, which have high levels of environmental protection while maintaining firm deadlines for environmental reviews. [18],[19]

For years, most Republicans have advocated reforms not dissimilar to Manchin-Schumer, but Congressional Republicans are so far withholding support for the pending proposal, appearing wary of giving Democrats an additional legislative accomplishment. Now Senate Republicans, led by Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., have unveiled a new permitting reform blueprint, supported by 38 GOP senators. Their approach gives states "sole authority" over regulations on fracking on federal land and would allow states the right to "develop energy resources" on federal land within their boundaries. In general, the Republican approach only indirectly and insufficiently improves problems with renewables or transmission siting while taking a much more aggressive stance on oil and gas development on public lands, banning the Biden administration's interim Social Cost of Carbon estimate, and codifying many of the Trump administration's attempted changes to undermine environmental regulation.[20] These provisions are therefore not serious attempts to further the U.S. clean energy transition or limit greenhouse gas emissions in keeping with needed climate protection.

Our report describes in depth the ways in which our current regulatory systems are fundamentally broken, and concludes with the following recommendations to Congress for accelerating government reviews and permitting, including: ***Read the Full Report here.***

0000000003539 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 8, 2023

Annie D'Amato
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. D'Amato:

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 Austin, Texas, on March 16–18, 2023, sponsored the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI). Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from PPI 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 professional staff member for the Committee on Environment and Public Works and Senator Thomas R. Carper is your supervising Senator. PPI invited you to travel on a fact-finding trip to Austin, Texas, on March 16–18, 2023. PPI certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses[2] related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. PPI 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 employees to accept privately sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent, and PPI's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from PPI 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).

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

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

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual[6] on their 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 Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their financial disclosure report.

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

[6] A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 ($141,022 for CY 2023) or is a political fund designee and is required to file financial disclosure reports.

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:

Annie D'Amato

Employing Office/Committee:

Senate Environment and Public Works

Private Sponsor(s):

Progressive Policy Institute

Destination(s):

Austin, Texas

Travel Dates:

3/16/23- 3/18/23

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 manage the recycling and sustainability portfolio for Chairman Carper of the Environment and Public Works Committee. This trip will focus on electronics recycling and circular economy issues, which I work on directly. Learning from these stakeholders and touring facilities will help me craft better and more informed bills going forward.

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.

2/13/20 Annie D'Amato

Date 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 Thomas R. Carper hereby authorize Annie D'Amato

(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)

2/14/2023 Tom Carper

Date Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

0000000003544 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 17, 2023

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February 6, 2023

Annie D'Amato
Office of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Dirksen SOB 410
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Annie,

On behalf of the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), I'd like to invite you to join us for a bipartisan trip to Austin, Texas, with other congressional staffers who cover environmental and energy policy issues. The trip is departing on the evening of Thursday, March 16, and returns on the morning of Saturday, March 18.

For years, PPI has assembled delegations of congressional members and staff for high-level, educational trips to explore how the issues moving on Capitol Hill have an impact on the real world. This specific trip will focus on the cutting edge innovation happening in Austin on electronics recycling and broader clean energy strategies.

During this brief trip, we will pack a full program of informative tours and meetings with experts in state and local government, private industry, and academia. Highlights of the trip will include meetings with public sector officials working on energy and recycling policies, top scholars advancing global energy transition research and supporting the development of new energy infrastructure, and those in the private sector implementing innovative recycling technologies to enable a more circular economy.

PPI is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming on current policy issues. This bipartisan congressional staff delegation trip will comply with all House and Senate ethics rules.

I hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be an insightful and educational visit to Austin. **We kindly ask that you RSVP no later than Friday, February 10th, 2023**. Space is limited; please contact Stuart Malec at 202-525-3926 or smalec@ppionline.org if you have questions or require further information.

Regards,

Lindsay M. Lewis
Executive Director