

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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2023 OCT 30 PM 3:55

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):

SeedAI

Travel Dates:

08/11/2023 to 08/13/2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$967.90	\$955.80	\$207.00 <i>\$58.48</i>	\$440.00 <i>(conference)</i>

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.

10/30/2023
Date

Michelle Benecke
Printed Name of Traveler

[Signature]
Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

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

10.30.2023
Date

[Signature]
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
Transportation	\$967.90	Michelle requested a separate flight from other staffers.
Lodging	\$955.80	Hotel was more expensive due to late booking

Taxis \$102.08 To and from airport and conference activities

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation: Itinerary was updated due to later travel day and more talk options. Itinerary has already been sent to Geoff Turley at ethics.

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:
Michelle Benecke

Employing Office/Committee:
HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DEM

Private Sponsor(s):
SeedAI

Destination(s):
Las Vegas, Nevada

Travel Dates:
08/11/2023 to 08/13/2023

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 established lead HSGAC's artificial intelligence and emerging technology portfolio, as well as the acquisition portfolio, and CRCL and privacy for the majority. This event was announced by the White House as part of a bundle of artificial intelligence initiatives. It will test the artificial intelligence models of Anthropic, Google, Hugging Face, NVIDIA, OpenAI, and Stability - all leading companies who have invested a great deal in security. Its results will inform the legislation the Chairman has directed us to develop, specifically the need for federal AI governance and leadership; acquisition and procurement safeguards; cybersecurity; and others.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

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

8/13/2023

Date

Michelle Benecke

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)

Jonda Gary C. Peters
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Michelle Benecke
(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) *N/A - no spouse or child travel*

8/10/2023

Date

Jonda Gary C. Peters
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

SeedAI: DEF CON AI Red Team Staff Delegation Trip

 Michelle Benecke

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS DEM

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):

Las Vegas, Nevada

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

I established lead HSGAC's artificial intelligence and emerging technology portfolio, as well as the acquisition portfolio, and CRCL and privacy for the majority. This event was announced by the White House as part of a bundle of artificial intelligence initiatives. It will test the artificial intelligence models of Anthropic, Google, Hugging Face, NVIDIA, OpenAI, and Stability - all leading companies who have invested a great deal in security. Its results will inform the legislation the Chairman has directed us to develop, specifically the need for federal AI governance and leadership; acquisition and procurement safeguards; cybersecurity; and others.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

SeedAI

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

None

Address

600 Massachusetts Ave NW

Address 2 (Optional)

None

City, State Zip

Washington, District Of Columbia 20001 United States

Phone Number

3129255146

Organization URL

seedai.org

History of Congressional Travel

SeedAI has never before sponsored congressional travel.

Educational Activities

SeedAI conducts multiple educational initiatives: SeedAI hosted the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) Task Force and assisted with the guide to the policy and practical aspects of building a national resource for AI research. The AI Primer Series, a project in conjunction with the Congressional AI Caucus, is a series of hosted events and briefings to bolster Congressional understanding of AI, its implications across areas of jurisdiction, and how the world is reacting to its deployment. Most recently, at SXSW, SeedAI hosted an educational event called AI for the people.

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.
- ☒ 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.

We are sponsoring a staffdel to attend the largest-ever AI Red Team exercise with AI Village @ DEF CON 31, hosting public officials and thousands of hackers & students to test the artificial intelligence models of Anthropic, Google, Hugging Face, NVIDIA, OpenAI, and Stability at DEF CON 31 - one of the world's largest and oldest hacking conferences. The bipartisan staffdel will depart Washington Reagan Airport (DCA) on Friday morning, August 11, and return on Sunday afternoon, August 13. The trip's programming and all travel, meals, and accommodations will be provided by SeedAI in accordance with Ethics rules and guidelines.

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

SeedAI's mission is to facilitate community-focused AI resources across the country to enable the next wave of transformative technology. Inviting public officials to one of the world's most prestigious hacking conferences to solve problems in AI and cyber security is part of that mission. By immersing the staffers in AI security, staffers will be more able to understand where the forefront of AI security issues are and write more technically-sound and laser focused legislation and policy.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized without 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

- ☒ 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

- ☒ 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

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/11/2023 @ 07:30 AM



Trip End Date/Time:
08/13/2023 @ 07:45 PM

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: \$1,000.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$1,000.00
Note Round trip airfare to and from conference.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$420.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/11/2023	08/13/2023	Linq	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	2	\$210.00	Yes
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason The rooms are part of the larger conference room block, near to the conference to cut down on taxi costs to and from the venue.								

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$207.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/11/2023	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$0.00	\$69.00	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No
08/12/2023	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$0.00	\$69.00	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No
08/13/2023	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$0.00	\$69.00	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$440.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Conference Fees	\$440.00	Conference Ticket for entry

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: DEF CON AI Red Team Staff Delegation Trip
Travel Date(s): August 11-13, 2023
Travel Destination(s): Las Vegas, Nevada

Sponsor: SeedAI

Austin Carson

(printed name of sponsor representative)

CEO

(title)



(signature of sponsor representative)

6/23/2023

(date)

Full Name	st Name	Last Name	House or Senate	Email	Office / Organization	Title	Party	Reason for invitation
Michelle Benecke	Michelle	Benecke	S	michelle_benecke@hsgac.senate.gov	HSGAC majority	Senior Counsel	Democrat	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Evie Freeman	Evie	Freeman	S	evie_freeman@hsgac.senate.gov	HSGAC majority	Counsel	Democrat	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Halie Craig	Halie	Craig	S	halie_craig@commerce.senate.gov	Commerce minority	Policy Staff	Republican	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Maggie Frankel	Maggie	Frankel	S	maggie_frankel@hsgac.senate.gov	HSGAC minority	Professional Staff Member / Parliamentarian	Republican	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Aditi Gupta	Aditi	Gupta	S	aditi_gupta@lujan.senate.gov	Lujan	ASME/AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow	Democrat	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Senators areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Jill Ricotta	Jill	Ricotta	S	jill_ricotta@schumer.senate.gov	Schumer	Regional Security Advisor	Democrat	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Senators areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Max Katz	Max	Katz	S	Max_Katz@heinrich.senate.gov	Heinrich	Technology staffer	Democrat	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Senators areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Alexandra Seymore	Alexandra	Seymore	S	alexandra_seymour@commerce.senate.gov	Commerce	AI staff lead	N/A	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.
Julia Pan	Julia	Pan	S	julia_pan@commerce.senate.gov	Commerce	Space and Science Subcommittee Staffer	N/A	This event would provide the staffer with a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence and its impact on cybersecurity in the Committee's areas of interest, gaining valuable insights, fostering connections with industry experts, and facilitating informed decision-making on technology-related policies and legislation - particularly with the ICS village, Policy Village, and other village content at DEF CON.

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:
Michelle Benecke

Employing Office/Committee:
HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DEM

Private Sponsor(s):
SeedAI

Destination(s):
Las Vegas, Nevada

Travel Dates:
08/11/2023 to 08/13/2023

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 established lead HSGAC's artificial intelligence and emerging technology portfolio, as well as the acquisition portfolio, and CRCL and privacy for the majority. This event was announced by the White House as part of a bundle of artificial intelligence initiatives. It will test the artificial intelligence models of Anthropic, Google, Hugging Face, NVIDIA, OpenAI, and Stability - all leading companies who have invested a great deal in security. Its results will inform the legislation the Chairman has directed us to develop, specifically the need for federal AI governance and leadership; acquisition and procurement safeguards; cybersecurity; and others.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

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

8/31/2023

Date

Michelle Benecke

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)

Senator Gary C. Peters
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Michelle Benecke
(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)

N/A - no spouse or child travel

8/10/2023

Date

Gary C. Peters
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

DEF CON 31 Congressional Itinerary*

August 11-13, 2023

**SeedAI****DEFCON**

Meals during the trip are the responsibility of the individual staffer. SeedAI will reimburse the staffer up to per-diem cost of meals as per the Ethics guidelines.

Friday, August 11, 2023

7:59 AM - 10:00 AM

AA FLIGHT 1251 FROM WASHINGTON REAGAN (DCA) TO LAS VEGAS (LAS)

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Transit to and check-in at Flamingo Hotel

3555 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

11:30AM - 12:30 PM

Working Lunch and Introductory Briefing

Flamingo Hotel (POC: Daria Bahrami / Winnona DeSombre - SeedAI staff)

Meet with SeedAI staff, discuss operational security at the conference, pass out badges and paper itineraries, introduce points of contact and DEF CON best practices.

12:30PM - 1:00 PM

Travel to DEF CON @ Caesars Forum

3911 S Koval Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89109

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

DEF CON Mainstage Talk - Living Next Door to Russia

Caesars Forum - Mykko Hypponen (EUROPOL)

DEFCON contains five mainstage tracks, alongside 37 "Village" tracks, which are effectively their own conferences inside the larger con. It is a true hacker honor to be on the DEF CON mainstage, and many talks consist of the latest and greatest offensive techniques. Staffers will be able to choose from 1 of 4 talks going on the mainstage at a time.

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Tour of Aerospace, Policy, ICS, Car-Hacking, & AI Villages

Caesars Forum (POC: Sarah Powazek - Policy@DEFCON staff)

The invited delegation has interests in AI, Aerospace, Policy, and Automation. Policy@DEFCON will provide an agenda for a self-guided tour of DEF CON's villages - each village, on top of a talk track, usually includes interactive elements where staffers can engage with hackers.

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Generative AI Red Team

Caesars Forum (POC: Austin Carson - CEO, SeedAI)

Staffers will be observing the AI Village's Generative AI Red Team contest, and are invited to participate themselves (see [here for more details / White House Announcement](#)). AI Village organizers will brief the delegation on the contest and AI Village's red team program thus far. Participants have 50 minutes, no access to outside tools, and will contribute to the red-teaming of real-life generative AI models in a Jeopardy "Capture-the-Flag"-type competition.

Michelle Benecke Page 11 of 13



SeedAI



DEFCON

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

DEF CON Evening Event - Fireside Chat with Acting NCD*Caesars Forum - Kemba Walden, ONCD.*

Staffers are invited to a fireside chat with Director Walden, the current acting National Cyber Director.

Saturday, August 12, 2023

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

Policy @ DEFCON Talk - Non-State Actors and the War in Ukraine*Caesars Forum (Speaker: Nikita C - UK NCSC,**POC: Daria Bahrami - SeedAI staff)*

Staffers will be given the opportunity to engage in a Chatham House dialogue with hackers and other international government representatives on the current state of play with regards to non-state actors fighting the cyber-war in Ukraine.

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Travel to Flamingo from Caesar's Forum*Flamingo*

11:00 AM - 1:15 PM

Artificial Intelligence for Red Team Operations*Flamingo (POC: Peter Halberg - Red Team Village Lead)*

The integration of artificial intelligence into red team operations has revolutionized the way cybersecurity professionals approach their work. This workshop will equip DEFCON participants with necessary skills and understanding to leverage AI tools effectively throughout different stages of red team operations.

11:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Travel Back to Caesar's Forum from Flamingo*Caesar's Forum*

2:00PM - 3:30 PM

Contest Participation - Trace Labs OSINT CTF*Caesars Forum (POC: Daria Bahrami - SeedAI staff)*

The Trace Labs Search Party CTF is a non theoretical, gamified effort that allows for the crowdsourcing of contestants to perform a single task: Conduct open source intelligence operations to help find missing persons. Staffers will be given a tutorial on how non-state hackers can assist with law enforcement efforts, and will be encouraged to try and solve a missing persons case together.

3:30PM - 4:30 PM

The Perils of Generative AI - Implications for Open Source Intelligence Research*LINQ - Recon Village (Speaker: Andy Dennis - Recon V. Lead)*

DEF CON spans three separate hotels on the Vegas strip.

Staffers will travel to the Linq where Recon village will display how AI is impacting cyber defenders.

5:30PM - 6:30 PM

Closing Keynote: A Cautionary Tale for our Cyber Future*Caesars Forum Mainstage (Speaker: Jen Easterly, CISA)*

Saturday's programming will close with a keynote from Jen Easterly, the director of CISA.



SeedAI



DEFCON

Sunday, August 13, 2023

9:55 AM - 7:43 PM

**AA FLIGHT 2258 FROM LAS VEGAS (LAS) TO
WASHINGTON REAGAN (DCA)**