RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

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Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

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

Private Sponsor(s):
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Travel Dates:
04/02/2024 to 04/05/2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$576.21	$510.00	$69.88	$25.00

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

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

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

4/18/24
Date

Keerthana Kallarackal
Printed Name of Traveler

Keerthana Kallarackal
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.

4/18/24
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
Meals	$69.88	Meals were less expensive than previously planned. We stayed below the per diem per day.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ● No

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

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

○ Yes ● No

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

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Keerthana Kallarackal

Employing Office/Committee:

RUBIO, MARCO

Private Sponsor(s):

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Destination(s):

Clewistown, Florida

Travel Dates:

04/02/2024 to 04/04/2024

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.

This trip will provide me with an opportunity to tour South Florida's agricultural industry gaining firsthand knowledge of its impact on Florida and the United States. In my office, as the legislative correspondent who has the portfolio on agriculture, environment, nutrition, FEMA, transportation, etc., this trip, by taking me to Lake Okeechobee, sugarcane fields, the citrus farm will bridge my knowledge of vital Florida priorities.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? ☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

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.

3/13/24
Date

Keerthana Kallarackal
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 Senator Rubio (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) hereby authorize Keerthana Kallarackal (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)

3/13/2024
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

South Florida Agricultural Foundation: Ag-Venture

Keerthana Kallarackal

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
RUBIO, MARCO

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):
Clewiston, Florida

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

This trip will provide me with an opportunity to tour South Florida's agricultural industry gaining firsthand knowledge of its impact on Florida and the United States.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
None

Address
P. O. Box 942

Address 2 (Optional)
None

City, State Zip
Loxahatchee, Florida 33470 United States

Phone Number
2024319763

Organization URL
https://www.southfloridaagfoundation.org

History of Congressional Travel

The South Florida Agricultural Foundation has been sponsoring congressional staff trips since 2017. We host 2 trips each year, with the exceptions being in 2020 and 2023 (due to gov't shutdown).

Educational Activities

The Foundation provides agricultural information to local school and civic groups and awards scholarships to students pursuing agricultural studies at local schools.

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.

The trip provides congressional staffers a chance to see the operations of farms that produce sugarcane, sweet corn, green beans, rice and many other crops for up to 180 million Americans during the winter and spring months every year. Staffers will spend their days touring farms, talking to local farmers, seeing sugarcane throughout the entire cycle- crop, harvesting, refining and all the behind the scenes work that goes into manufacturing and packaging. They see celery and other in-season crops being harvested and packaged in the fields. They will also see how the byproducts of sugarcane are used to produce eco-friendly food storage containers.

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

The mission of the South Florida Agricultural Foundation is to provide educational and stewardship opportunities within the South Florida agricultural industry, including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, celery, rice and other local crops in an area which ranks in the top 10 in the nation for agricultural revenue. Staffers will learn about water issues, farm bill issues and are able to talk to and see how it impacts our part of the country.

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 specifically 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

- ● 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

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
04/02/2024 @ 07:05 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
04/04/2024 @ 09:30 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: $576.21 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$256.21
Note Roundtrip airfare from DCA to PBI		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$320.00
Note Round trip transportation on bus throughout entirety of the tour.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $510.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/02/2024	04/04/2024	Hampton Inn	Clewiston	Florida	United States	2	$255.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $160.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/02/2024	$0.00	$17.00	$31.00	$5.00	**$53.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No
04/03/2024	$16.00	$17.00	$31.00	$5.00	**$69.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No
04/04/2024	$16.00	$17.00	$0.00	$5.00	**$38.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $25.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Airboat ride)	$25.00	Staffers will take an airboat to an island where they will learn about the water issues in the area and return back to land to continue the tour.

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: Ag-Venture

Travel Date(s): April 2-4, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Clewiston, Belle Glade and West Palm Beach, FL

Sponsor: South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Ardis Hammock — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

President — *(title)*

Ardis Hammock — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

03/12/24 — *(date)*

Armstrong	Wesley
Barcley	Kate
Covington	Kate
Delaney	Josh
Foltz	Jonathan
Kallarackal	Keeri
Parker	Clay
Thomas	Katherine
Tonsager	Josh

Kallarackal, Keeri (Rubio)

From: Danielle Duffy <Danielle@soflagfoundation.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Kallarackal, Keeri (Rubio)
Subject: You're invited on an Ag-venture!
Attachments: SFAFItinerary.docx

Hi Keeri,

The **South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.**, a non-profit organization founded to increase public awareness of South Florida's agricultural industries – including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, rice, celery and other crops – through educational and stewardship opportunities, is sponsoring a congressional staff trip to our area on **April 2-5, 2024**. The purpose of this ***Ag-venture*** is to give staffers an opportunity to tour South Florida's agricultural industry gaining firsthand knowledge of its impact on Florida and the United States.

The Foundation would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in this upcoming trip. I have attached our tentative itinerary, but you can also check out our website at **www.soflagfoundation.org**, where you can see the educational opportunities staffers had on previous tours.

Tour participants depart from Ronald Reagan National Airport to Palm Beach International Airport where Foundation staff and a chartered bus will meet them. We'll kickoff the tour by traveling west to the Everglades Agricultural Area. There we'll have an ecological **AIR BOAT TOUR** on Lake Okeechobee, the heart of a number of Florida's water issues. Other stops during the tour will include citrus groves, sugarcane field operations and mill, and other vegetable planting and harvesting operations. The Foundation will cover the cost of all travel, lodging and meal expenses associated with the trip and will provide all necessary documentation for the Ethics Committee.

Florida is known as a premier tourist destination with its miles of sandy beaches, but few people know of its abundant agricultural interests and its vital role in food production. In the South Florida region, Palm Beach County alone generates nearly one-and-a-half billion dollars in total agricultural sales each year, ranking it among the top ten counties for highest agricultural revenue in the nation. While Florida has three million acres devoted to agriculture, Palm Beach County has more agriculture than any other county with 40% of its land actively farmed. Florida food is exported to 170 different countries to the tune of $4 billion worth of food products.

We hope you will be able to join the Foundation on this fact-finding trip. We believe it will be a worthwhile experience and that you will gain a better understanding of the Florida agricultural industry and other ag-related issues that you work with on a daily basis.

Be assured that we will be following all CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19 virus precautions and protocols necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Space is limited, and slots will be filled on a first come, first-served basis. Let us know if you would like to participate in this exciting ***Ag-venture*** and we'll put you at the top of our RSVP list. I know it's early, but we wanted to be sure you can add us to your calendar. We'll forward the final

itinerary shortly and will have all ethics forms to you prior to the due date of **March 4th**. Feel free to contact us at *202-431-9763* if you have any questions.
Hope to see you in April!
Ardis Hammock, Board President

Danielle Duffy, Executive Director

South Florida
Agricultural Foundation

Danielle Duffy
Executive Director
202-431-9763
www.soflagfoundation.org

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)
ITINERARY
2024 Congressional Staff Tour
April 2-4, 2024

***Note: All food/catering/transportation/lodging is paid for by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:05 – 9:38 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines
9:38 – 10:15 AM	Arrive Palm Beach International Airport. SFAF group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage, board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the rest of the trip.
10:15 – 11:00 AM	Travel to Pioneer Growers
11:00—11:30 AM	Tour of Pioneer Growers where staffers will see sweetcorn and green beans in the field, being harvested and packaged. Stewart Mann, General Manager, will give the tour. Pioneer Growers specializes in sweet corn, green beans, radishes, cabbage, leafy greens and sweet potatoes. They handle over two million packages a year.
11:30—12:15 PM	Travel to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee. As bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), a presentation of points of interest along the way include the Sem-Chi Rice Plant, Florida Crystals sugarcane fields, the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Mill and lettuce, sweet corn and sugarcane fields at various stages of growth. Also, a video presentation about water issues pertaining to the lake and how sugarcane is grown and harvested will be shown during the ride. A stop for lunch will be made at the pavilion near the airboat dock. While eating, there will be a short presentation of the area and its historical significance. (Total time for presentation and videos about 30 mins)
12:15 – 3:00 PM	Depart from dock on airboat for tour of Lake Okeechobee; Boats will stop out on the lake where Terrie Bates, a water resource specialist that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management, will explain the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discuss water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations. She will address questions from staffers. Airboats will return back to the dock.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Board bus.
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Depart Slim's Fish Camp to travel to Hampton Inn in Clewiston.
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Check into the Hampton Inn, prepare for dinner presentation.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Hilliard Brothers
6:00—6:45 PM	Tour Hillard Brothers to learn about the Cattle industry in Florida and the challenges they face presented by Lindsey Wiggins and Tripp Whidden. Then head to Swindle Farm for dinner.
6:45 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Swindle Farm. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower. Meet local city and county elected officials during working reception and dinner. The mayor of Clewiston, James Pittman, will speak on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city. The county and city commissioners present: Ramon Iglesias, Mali Gardner, Hillary Hyslope and Greg Thompson, will discuss the effects of Covid on the agricultural community and other issues rural areas are facing. Short presentation of dairy farming in the area by Sutton Rucks of Milking R Dairy and how the recent laws have affected their business. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to the Hampton Inn.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart the Hampton Inn to travel to sugarcane fields.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting, Scott Bearden, precision ag manager with U. S. Sugar, will discuss compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane. Jarad Plair, farm manager, will explain how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop will be made at a pump station where Richard Sanchez, Vice President of Strategic and Environmental Affairs, will present and discuss water quality standards.
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch at Clewiston Youth Center provided by SFAF. Presentation Judy Sanchez, Sr. Dir. of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar, and member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products, will give a presentation on American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing the farm bill, NAFTA and other trade issues.
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Travel to U. S. Sugar Mill and Refinery, Clewiston.
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Arrive at U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Ryan Duffy, Dir. of Corporate Communications, U. S. Sugar. Discussion will include compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, while the refinery will focus on FDA food safety and labeling issues. Tour of packaging facilities.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Depart mill, travel to the Hampton Inn.
3:15 – 4:30 PM	Arrive at hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 – 4:45 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston.
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Southern Gardens Citrus grove stop, Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, will discuss citrus greening, hurricanes and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Travel to Dunwody Lodge
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the independent farmers present (Nicky Perez, Donnie Lundy, Carl Perry, Luigi Trotta, Justin Sobie, and Alan Hammock) and each will speak 5-10 minutes on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. Staffers will be formally introduced to all the farmers. SFAF will purchase steaks cooked by Hendry County Cattlemen's Association who will discuss the importance of the cattle industry in Florida. Approximately two hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to the Hampton Inn.

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Depart the Hampton Inn to travel to Belle Glade to DUDA Farms.
8:45 – 10: 15 AM	Arrive in Belle Glade. Tour of DUDA Farms led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
10:15- 10:30 AM	Travel to TKM, also in Belle Glade.
10:30 - 12:00 PM	Tour of TKM Bengard Farm led by Ethan Basore, Farm Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
12:00 – 12:15 PM	Drive to the Lawrence E. Will Museum in Belle Glade.
12:15 – 1:00 PM	Arrive at Lawrence E. Will Museum. Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Introduction of panel of farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau moderated by Alleigh Reitz from Everglades Farm Equipment and a Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau board member, and Sam Phares, District 8 Director, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Each farm member on the panel will explain an item of importance in their farming process. Farm members participating are Matt Hoffman (Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op, Chuck Obern (C&B Farms), Keith Wedgworth (Wedgworth), Brad Phares (Lazy JP Ranch), Jamie Fussell (FFVA), Buddy McKinstry (JEM Farms), Mike Schlechter (Everglades Farm Equipment) and Olivia Pope (Pope Farms).
1:00 – 2:45 PM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with the farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research. Discussion will include issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Board bus to depart.
3:00 – 3:45 PM	Travel to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, downtown West Palm Beach.
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Marie Bedner will lead the tour of Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce from the farm, grown right outside their back door. Also, watch a brief presentation of the new facility the Bedner's provide for their H2A workers.
4:15 – 4:45 PM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport.
7:09 PM	Depart Palm Beach on American Airlines flight.
9:30 PM	Arrive Washington, DC.