

RE-3 Senators and Officers Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 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 Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) Institute

Travel Dates:

11/13/2025 to 11/17/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$3,377.04	\$18,060.00	\$202.61	\$890.00

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

- The final Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

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.

I have made a determination that the travel described above was in connection with my duties as an officeholder, and did not create the appearance that I was using public office for private gain.

I have made a determination that the travel described above was in connection with my duties as an officeholder, and did not create the appearance that I was using public office for private gain.

12/8/25
Date

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

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	\$3,377.04	Flight costs changed due to the last-minute nature of booking, the difficulty and remoteness of the COP location, and the limited flight options available as a result. Taxi costs were low in Belem.
Meals	\$202.61	Adjusting to reflect reduced costs due to free in flight meals, breakfasts included at hotel, and low cost of food in Belem.
Lodging	\$18,060.00	SEEC Institute negotiated with the hotel to have single rather than double rooms, reducing costs. Travelers had rooms reserved from the night of the 13th and checked out on the 16th, totaling use of rooms for 3 nights. Per night cost per room was: \$1505.00. The property is a three-star budget hotel with a normal nightly rate of around \$60 per room. For the duration of the conference, rates across hotels in Belém were substantially inflated and imposed minimum booking periods of two weeks. This surge reflected the extreme demand for lodging created by tens of thousands of attendees traveling to a city with limited hotel capacity. As a result, travelers had no reasonably secure, lower-cost alternatives for these dates.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

Yes No

Explanation: The itinerary shifted because conditions at COP evolve rapidly on the ground, and the cancellation of the House of Representatives delegation that was planned required reworking of the schedule. We can provide an updated PDF of the itinerary.

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

Yes No

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

Wang, Claire (EPW)

From: Max Frankel <max@seecinstitute.org>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Dudis, Dan (EPW); Misk, Jonathan (EPW); Wang, Claire (EPW)
Cc: Pearson Croney-Clark
Subject: SEEC Institute COP 30 Delegation Invitation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Whitehouse,

On behalf of SEEC Institute, it is my pleasure to extend a formal invitation to join the SEEC Institute delegation to COP 30. Held in Belém, Brazil -- the “gateway to the Amazon” -- ten years after the conclusion of the Paris Agreement in 2015, COP 30 will be a pivotal moment for the international climate movement.

While at COP, the delegation will work on a number of important issue areas and missions, including strengthening U.S. climate diplomacy, engaging on climate and trade policy, rallying the U.S. private sector, and promoting American commercial diplomacy.

The daily delegation schedule at COP 30 will focus on activities like these:

- Conduct bilateral meetings and policy exchanges with foreign officials;
- Interface with fellow parliamentarians and legislators from key partner countries;
- Participate in stakeholder roundtables to share best practices and build capacity to advance climate action;
- Convene and host public-facing events to push forward with American climate leadership.

The delegation will stay in Miami on November 10th, depart to Belem at 9am on November 11th from MIA, and return to Washington on November 16th, though we can be flexible if your individual schedule requires it. Specific information on flights will be shared upon confirmation.

If you intend to participate in this delegation, please formally RSVP to me and my team will follow up to obtain the necessary information to arrange travel.

Best,
Max Frankel

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Max Frankel
Executive Director
SEEC Institute
917-743-9318
max@seecinstitute.org



SEEC Ins'
Sustainable Energy & Environment

The Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) Institute: COP 30 Trip

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

Title:

Senator

Employing Office/Committee:

WHITEHOUSE, SHELDON

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):

Belem, Brazil

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

Not applicable for Senators and Officers.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

The Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) Institute

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

Yes

No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

Public Charity

Address

611 Pennsylvania Ave. SE

Address 2 (Optional)

None

City, State Zip

Washington DC, District Of Columbia 20003 United States

Phone Number

8283843275

Organization URL

seecinstitute.org

History of Congressional Travel

To date, SEEC Institute has sponsored two trips, both in 2025, for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to New York City and to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Each trip was conducted in compliance with House ethics rules and designed to provide Members with direct exposure to regional climate and clean energy solutions, local economic development efforts, and conservation initiatives. These educational programs strengthen congressional understanding of how federal policies translate into on-the-ground outcomes for communities and industries across the United States.

Educational Activities

SEEC Institute conducts research and convenes educational programming to inform Members of Congress and their staff on issues related to climate and clean energy. Our work includes producing policy research and analysis; hosting events such as the annual Solutions Summit, which features roundtables where Members of Congress engage directly with experts and stakeholders on key policy challenges; organizing regular briefings in Washington, D.C. on topics such as international climate cooperation, national parks, and climate resilience; and providing professional development sessions for congressional staff to strengthen their understanding of these critical issues.

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.

SEEC Institute will take a delegation to Belém, Brazil for engagement at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30). The program will include meetings with international policymakers, scientists, and private sector leaders to examine global progress on clean energy, climate finance, and adaptation. Participants will gain firsthand insight into international climate cooperation and its relevance to U.S. policy and economic opportunities.

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

The purpose of this trip is to advance international collaboration on climate policy and sustainability through engagement at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30) in Belém, Brazil. In alignment with the SEEC Institute's mission to educate and equip Members of Congress to lead on clean energy and climate solutions, the delegation will meet with global policymakers, scientists, and private sector leaders to learn about past, present, and potential future U.S. participation in climate action. The trip will emphasize how international cooperation can mobilize support for U.S. clean energy and climate priorities while strengthening relationships with officials and organizations advancing these goals around the world.

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

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

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:
11/13/2025 @ 11:45 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
11/17/2025 @ 12:24 AM

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

Yes No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$2,735.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Business	\$2,500.00
Note Round trip flight from district to Belem and back. Amount to be confirmed, expected to be less than \$2500.		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$235.00
Note Share of bus on the ground in Belem		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$20,056.80)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
11/14/2025	11/16/2025	Grao Para	Belem	None	Brazil	5	\$4,011.36	Yes

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason Accommodation challenges for COP30 have been unusually severe. Lodging in Belém is so scarce and overpriced that the UN, national delegations, and civil society participants have struggled to secure rooms, with some considering skipping the conference altogether. The Brazilian government's housing portal offered only apartments, cruise ship cabins, or unsafe and unsuitable hotels. Because Member safety is our top priority, we engaged a hotel broker used by trusted partners. The broker identified the most affordable viable option, the Grão Pará Hotel, which, despite being the cheapest, remains significantly inflated due to price gouging. The same hotel typically costs about \$59 per night under normal conditions, but rates have surged severalfold for COP30. Staying outside Belém would make meaningful participation impossible. See reporting: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/hotel-prices-make-countries-consider-skipping-cop30-climate-summit-2025-10-03/								

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$380.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
11/13/2025	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	In flight meals in transit to Belem	District Of Columbia	United States	No
11/14/2025	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	Belem	None	Brazil	No
11/15/2025	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	Belem	None	Brazil	No
11/16/2025	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	Belem	None	Brazil	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$890.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Insurance)	\$150.00	SEEC Institute will obtain travel insurance and emergency evacuation insurance for all travelers. This is the estimated cost.
Other (Security)	\$740.00	Security costs are necessary at COP 30 in Belém to ensure the safety of Members of Congress and delegation participants amid large international crowds, high-level government attendance, and a history of safety concerns around U.S. officials at COPs.

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: COP 30 Trip
Travel Date(s): 11/13/25 - 11/16/25
Travel Destination(s): Belem, Brazil

Sponsor: The Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC)

Max Frankel
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Executive Director
(title)

Max Frankel
(signature of sponsor representative)

Digitally signed by Max Frankel
Date: 2025.11.05 14:05:08 -05'00'

11/05/25
(date)



SEEC Institute Privately Sponsored Travel: COP 30 Trip

Senate Invitee List

11/05/2025

Invited and attending:

- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- Claire Wang
- Jonathan Misk
- Dan Dudis



SEEC Institute
Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

SEEC Institute: COP 30 Trip Itinerary

Destination: UN Climate Change Conference, Belém, Brazil

November 13 – 16, 2025

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Travel to Belem, Brazil

AA 1252 DCA to MIA

11:45 AM - 2:27 PM

Gol 7745 MIA to BEL

7:00 PM- 3:10 AM (+1)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

3:10 – 5:10 AM – Arrival, customs, and pick up to transit to hotel

5:10 – 7:00 AM – Check in to hotel and breakfast

7:00 – 11:30 AM – Site Visit: Utinga State Park

Av. João Paulo II, S/N - Curió-Utinga, Belém - PA, 66610-770, Brazil

The group visits Utinga State Park and hears speakers from WWF and the Pará region's environmental agency. The 1,300-hectare protected area safeguards Belém's drinkingwater supply and Amazonian biodiversity. Delegates meet with park officials to discuss conservation management, illegal-logging prevention, and lessons for urban green-space policy and resilience.

11:30 – 12:00 PM – Transit to UN COP Venue on bus

12:00 – 1:00 PM – Discussion with the World Wildlife Fund

Meeting room, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Delegates sit down with WWF experts to reflect on findings from their Utinga site visit. The debrief connects local environmental governance to international climate objectives and

sustainable development goals.

Afternoon – SEEC Institute purchases grab and go lunch for the group inside the COP Venue.

1:00 – 1:30 PM – Event: Streamlining Environmental Permitting

Denmark Pavilion, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

A Denmark Pavilion session examines efficient, transparent environmental-permitting systems. Speakers share Nordic approaches for accelerating clean-energy projects without weakening environmental safeguards, offering relevant insights for U.S. policy. Speakers include a representative from cBrain (still confirming).

1:30 – 3:00 PM – Rotating Meetings: Youth, Parliamentarians, and Innovation

UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Members participate in rotating meetings including discussions with Midwest students from Washington University in St. Louis, University of Chicago, and Ohio State University, Korean parliamentarians, and Sweden Pavilion's "Gridlocked! Energy for AI" with speakers TBC (waiting on the list). These engagements showcase collaboration across generations and nations on climate technology and civic participation.

3:00 – 5:00 PM – Roundtable: The Role of Elected Officials in Climate Policy

Casa Mia, Tv. Quintino Bocaiúva, 1696 - Reduto, Belém, Brazil

A multilateral roundtable brings together international legislators to discuss effective oversight and policy alignment for global climate goals. The exchange highlights how lawmakers can strengthen accountability and advance implementation through sustained international cooperation.

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Transit to dinner

6:00 – 9:00 PM – Dinner on Climate Implementation in the U.S. and Brazil

Restaurant TBC

An evening dinner gathers public- and private-sector leaders from both nations to share experiences in renewable-energy deployment and sustainable agriculture. Members gain perspective on practical implementation challenges and opportunities for bilateral learning. SEEC Institute pays for their delegation's meals.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Working Team Breakfast

An internal breakfast for SEEC Institute staff and Members to review progress, upcoming engagements, and media coordination.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Meetings with Global Environment Ministers

Meeting room, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Delegates meet with ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Korea to discuss regional cooperation on decarbonization and climate resilience. The meetings highlight shared priorities around clean-energy investment, supply-chain security, and innovation partnerships.

Afternoon – SEEC Institute purchases grab and go lunch for the group inside the COP Venue.**12:00 – 1:00 PM – “Solutions for the Frontlines” Session**

Buildings Pavilion, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

The group will attend a session focused on adaptation for frontline communities and infrastructure resilience in high-heat environments. Speakers include Derek Washam from the American Institute of Architects.

1:00 – 2:00 PM – Energy Security and Ukraine Event

Ukraine Pavilion, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Members participate in a session highlighting partnerships supporting Ukraine’s clean-energy transition and reconstruction. The event offers insight into transatlantic cooperation, linking energy independence, innovation, and democratic stability. Speakers include Ukrainian government officials.

2:00 – 4:30 PM – Briefings and Higher Education Event

Meeting room, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Delegates receive briefings from Woodwell Climate scientists on permafrost thaw and climate-risk integration in finance, followed by a Vanderbilt University side event on higher-education engagement in climate action. These sessions showcase how research and data inform both investment decisions and long-term adaptation planning.

4:30 – 6:30 PM – Meetings with UK, European, and Canadian Representatives

Meeting room, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

The delegation meets with representatives from the U.K., European Union, Austria, and Canada to discuss climate-finance and technology. These bilateral exchanges strengthen transatlantic collaboration on clean-energy deployment and emissions-reduction targets.

6:30 – 7:00 PM – Transit to dinner

7:00 – 9:30 PM – Dinner with Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) Delegation and International Partners

Restaurante Brasileirinho, Travessa Rui Barbosa, 2019 - Batista Campos, Belém - PA, 66035-444, Brazil

Dinner bringing together U.S. and international private-sector leaders to review progress from COP 30 and identify next steps for collaboration. The evening offers an opportunity for reflection, partnership building, and continued alignment on shared climate and investment goals. SEEC Institute pays for their delegation's meals.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:30 – 8:30 AM – Working Breakfast and Final Coordination

Hotel Grao Para or Hotel Ibis, TBC

A working breakfast to summarize key takeaways and next steps for follow-up communications. The session ensures alignment before concluding meetings and departure.

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Transit to COP Venue on bus

9:00 – 11:00 AM – Meetings with German and European Parliament Members

Meeting room, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

The delegation meets with Members of the German Bundestag and European Parliament to discuss transatlantic climate cooperation and industrial-policy alignment. The conversation provides perspective on joint opportunities around innovation, clean energy, and climate issues.

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Visit to Embrapa Agriculture Innovation Showcase

Embrapa Innovation Showcase, UN COP Venue, Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon, Av. Dr. Freitas, s/n - Marco, Belém - PA, 66613-902, Brazil

Delegates tour the Embrapa Innovation Showcase with remarks by representatives from the Gates Foundation and Farm Journal Foundation, featuring new technologies in sustainable agriculture and food-system resilience. This visit illustrates how science-driven innovation is shaping global approaches to sustainable production and climate adaptation.

1:00 – 3:40 PM – Transit to Val de Cans International Airport (BEL) and airport

Group transits to airport and checks in to flight, goes through security, and prepares to

depart.

3:40 – 8:00 PM – Flight: Belém to Miami (Gol Airlines, *still tentative*)

Group returns on Gol flight departing BEL at 3:40 PM and landing in MIA at 8:00 PM.

8:00 – 9:51 PM – Customs and transit time in MIA airport

9:51 PM – 12:24 AM – Flight from Miami to Washington, D.C. (*still tentative*)

Gol flight departing MIA at 9:51 PM and landing at IAD at 12:24 PM. Group lands in Washington, D.C., concluding the SEEC Institute COP 30 trip.