

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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.**

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

2025 JUN 26 PM 12:36

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 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Travel Dates:

June 16th, 2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

N/A

Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$60.81	N/A	\$31.50	N/A

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.

6/26/25
DateAV Whitney
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.

6/26/25
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
\$39.19	\$60.81	The transportation costs were less than they were originally estimated at \$100 per person.
\$1.50	\$31.50	The meal costs were slightly more expensive than they were originally estimated at \$30.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

As a result of a tour taking longer than expected and some traffic on our return to D.C., there were minor changes to our itinerary extending the trip by 45 minutes. See updated agenda for more details.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

Emma Newton and Rep. Samantha Vang, listed on the original agenda, were unable to attend. See updated agenda for more details.

Trip Name: ASPCA Farm Tour

Organization Information

Organization Name:

ASPCA - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?☒ Yes ☐ No**If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:**☐ Private Foundation ☒ Public Charity**Address:**

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 450

Phone Number:

202-621-6500

City, State, Zip:

Washington, D.C. 20003

Organization URL:

aspc.org

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

The ASPCA sponsored a similar farm tour for House and Senate staff in 2023.

Educational Activities

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

The ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) has been at the forefront of animal rescue and protection since our founding as the first animal welfare organization in North America in 1866. For more than 150 years, we have been the leading voice in animal welfare, bringing the critical protection of animals to the forefront of society.

We've led the way in fighting cruelty, rescuing and securing adoptions for animals in need, and driving significant legislative change that protects their lives and welfare — ultimately transforming how Americans value and care for animals.

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.

The purpose of this trip is to show Senate staff what higher-welfare farming systems look like, how they differ from the conventional model that dominates our food system, and what can be done to support their growth and success into the future. Accordingly, the ASPCA has identified the two farms featured on this trip and organized all of the logistics required to facilitate the travel to and from the farms.

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

The ASPCA is dedicated to preventing cruelty to dogs, cats, equines and farm animals throughout the United States. As part of that mission, the ASPCA works to improve the lives of farm animals by supporting the transition to a more humane food system. The majority of animals raised for food in the U.S. are currently raised on conventional "factory farms," where they are denied the space or enrichments to carry out even their most basic natural behaviors. The ASPCA calls for a move away from these inhumane systems and toward higher-welfare and pasture-based farming.

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):

- ☐ No sponsor retains or employs a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principle, 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

Required if selecting the third option in either column - Please explain why the second overnight stay is practically required and necessary to accomplish the purpose 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.

Invitees list

- ☒ A list of all Senate invitees is attached to this form (required).
- ☒ Members and staff from the House of Representatives will also receive invitations.

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:

9:15 am



Trip End Date/Time:

4:00 pm

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



Yes



No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ 100 Accompanying Family Member: \$ n/a)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Rental Motor Coach Bus	Coach	\$100

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ n/a Accompanying Family Member: \$ n/a)

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.		
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: \$ 30 Accompanying Family Member: \$ n/a)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
6/16/25		30				Warrenton	VA	USA	

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
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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: ASPCA Farm Tour
Travel Date(s): June 16, 2025
Travel Destination(s): The Plains, Virginia and Warrenton, Virginia
Sponsor: ASPCA

Beverly Jones

(printed name of sponsor representative)

SVP, Chief Legal Officer

(title)


box SIGN 1J5PR8Z3-4L796QR2

(signature of sponsor representative)

Apr 10, 2025

(date)

FARM TOUR AGENDA

- 9:15 AM: Leave U.S. Botanical Gardens, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001 to head to Kinloch Farm at 5313 Hopewell Road, The Plains, VA 20198
 - Tour participants will be traveling with a few farmers and issue experts, including:
 - Kara Shannon, Director of Farm Animal Welfare Policy, ASPCA
 - Rebecca Wolf, Senior Food Policy Analyst, Food & Water Watch
 - Hannah Tremblay, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Farm Aid
 - Emma Newton, Senior Associate for Agriculture and Food Systems, State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
 - Samantha Gasson, Humane Farming Program Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)
 - Craig Watts, Contract Grower Transition Program Director, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)
 - Daniel Honig, Owner and Founder, Happy Valley Meat Company
- We expect conversations related to farming practices and the impact of government programs on farm success and growth to occur during travel to and between stops.
- 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Arrive at Kinloch Farm
- 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Tour of Kinloch Farm led by farmer Mike Peterson
 - Tour participants will hear about the farm's history, animal welfare practices, production methods, and experience navigating the marketplace and reaching consumers. The farmer will highlight government-administered programs utilized to support the farm. A few farmers from the area have also been invited to share their experiences about interacting with federal agencies.
- 12:00 PM: Leave for Whiffletree Farm at 68717 Springs Road, Warrenton, VA 20186
- 12:30 PM: Arrive at Whiffletree Farm
- 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM: Lite lunch and facilitated conversation at Whiffletree Farm
 - ASPCA staff will facilitate conversations with the farmers and issue experts named above. They will connect the dots between government programs and agencies like those administered by USDA and the food system they help create.
- 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM: Tour of Whiffletree Farm led by farmer Jesse Strait
 - Tour participants will hear about the farm's history, animal welfare practices, animal and crop production methods, and experience navigating the marketplace and reaching consumers. The farmer will highlight government-administered programs utilized to support the farm.
- 2:45 PM: Leave to return to DC
 - On the bus, farmers and issue experts will discuss how industrial animal agriculture's practices differ from those employed on the farms visited on the tour.
- 4:00 PM: Arrive back at U.S. Botanical Gardens, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001

Senate invites

Maddie Daly
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Alsobrooks (MD)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Elizabeth Mabry
Legislative Director
Senator Alsobrooks (MD)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Susanne Brooks
Senior Adviser, Energy, Climate and Environment
Senator Bennet (CO)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Erin Doty
Health Policy Adviser
Senator Bennet (CO)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

James Whaley
Legislative Assistant
Senator Bennet (CO)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Ashley Law
Legislative Aide
Senator Blumenthal (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare & Environment

Kasandra Navarro
Legislative Assistant
Senator Blumenthal (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Health

Amber Ray
Health Policy Adviser
Senator Blunt Rochester (DE)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Nate Robinson
Legislative Aide
Senator Blunt Rochester (DE)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Prerna Bhat
Legislative Assistant
Senator Booker (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Nadia Laniyan
Legislative Assistant
Senator Booker (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

A.V. Whitney
Legislative Aide
Senator Booker (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Adam Zipkin
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senator Booker (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Katherine Huiskes
Legislative Aide
Senator Collins (ME)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Chris Avila
Legislative Assistant
Senator Coons (DE)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Environment

Kailyn Broughton
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Coons (DE)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Kyle Chapman
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Cortez Masto (NV)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Sean Lokken
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Cortez Masto (NV)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Christina McCauley
Policy Adviser
Senator Cortez Masto (NV)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Madeleine Marr
Legislative Assistant
Senator Fetterman (PA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Kurtis Miller
Legislative Assistant
Senator Fetterman (PA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Caroline Shaffer
Legislative Assistant
Senator Fetterman (PA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Senate invites

Savannah Plath
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Gallego (AZ)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Mitchell Lee
Legislative Aide
Senator Gillibrand (NY)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Theo Miller
Legislative Assistant
Senator Gillibrand (NY)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Tanner Bielefeld Pruitt
Legislative Correspondent/Correspondence Manager
Senator Hassan (NH)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Jasmine Masand
Deputy Legislative Director
Senator Hassan (NH)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Kylie Bowham
Legislative Assistant
Senator Hawley (MO)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Environment

Alex Lawrence
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Hawley (MO)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Douglas Neviera
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Hawley (MO)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Aria Campos
Legislative Assistant
Senator Heinrich (NM)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Wes King
Legislative Assistant
Senator Heinrich (NM)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Ryan Bardot
Legislative Assistant
Senator Justice (WA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animals & Environment

Samantha Koehler
Legislative Assistant
Senator Kaine (VA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Evan McWalters
Legislative Assistant
Senator Kaine (VA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Lily Antonowicz
Legislative Assistant
Senator Kim (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Marshall Burkhardt
Legislative Assistant
Senator Kim (NJ)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Mikayla Bodey
Policy Director
Senator Klobuchar (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Thomas Liepold
Legislative Assistant
Senator Klobuchar (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Ruth McDonald
Legislative Assistant
Senator Klobuchar (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Kyle Varner
Senior Professional Staff Member
Senator Klobuchar (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Robert Borden
Scheduler
Senator Lee (UT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Chip Wyatt
Legislative Assistant
Senator Lee (UT)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Jared Henderson
Legislative Assistant
Senator Lujan (NM)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Senate invites

Calli Shapiro
Legislative Assistant
Senator Lujan (NM)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Kaycee Beardeaux
Legislative Assistant
Senator Markey (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Carina Fish
Legislative Assistant
Senator Markey (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Matthew Sheffield
Fellow
Senator Markey (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Hannah Vogel
Legislative Assistant
Senator Markey (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Tara Wilson
Legislative Assistant
Senator Markey (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Kat Abrams
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Merkley (OR)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Mickey Harvey
Legislative Assistant
Senator Merkley (OR)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Alyson Lowell
Fellow
Senator Murkowski (AK)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Karen McCarthy
Legislative Assistant
Senator Murkowski (AK)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Matt Robinson
Legislative Assistant
Senator Murkowski (AK)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare & Environment

Liam McEnroe
Legislative Assistant
Senator Murphy (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare & Environment

Emily Smith
Legislative Director
Senator Murphy (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Katie Clements
Legislative Assistant
Senator Murray (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Jason Edwards
Legislative Assistant
Senator Murray (CT)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Tara Hartnett
Health Legislative Aide
Senator Murray (WA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Steven Klausner
Legislative Aide
Senator Murray (WA)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Nate Bentham
Policy Adviser
Senator Padilla (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

John Chambliss
Policy Adviser
Senator Padilla (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Angela Ebner
Policy Adviser
Senator Padilla (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Callum Case
Legislative Assistant
Senator Paul (KY)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Florida Guxholli
Legislative Assistant
Senator Paul (KY)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Senate invites

Jill Boland
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Reed (RI)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Jackie Miech
Legislative Assistant
Senator Reed (RI)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Rachel Mitnick
Legislative Assistant
Senator Reed (RI)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

McKenna Levitt
Policy Adviser
Senator Rosen (AZ)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Megan Thompson
Chief Domestic Policy Adviser
Senator Rosen (AZ)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Madison Brothers
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Sanders (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare & Environment

Liam Fagan
Legislative Assistant
Senator Sanders (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Davan Reece
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Sanders (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

James Chang
Policy Adviser
Senator Schatz (HI)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Ruthie Cohen
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Schatz (HI)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Caitlin Lawrence
Fellow
Senator Schatz (HI)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Gabrielle Schechter
Health Policy Adviser
Senator Schatz (HI)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Anna Yelverton
Climate and Environment Policy Adviser
Senator Schatz (HI)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Caitlin Balagula
Legislative Assistant
Senator Schiff (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Dahvi Cohen
Legislative Assistant
Senator Schiff (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Kaitlyn Kelly
Policy Adviser
Senator Schiff (CA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Zahnay Gates
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Schumer (NY)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Tim Ryder
Legislative Assistant
Senator Schumer (NY)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Savannah Shaw
Legislative Aide
Senator Schumer (NY)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Erica Anhalt
Senior Legislative Assistant
Senator Shaheen (NH)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Janelle DiLuccia
Policy Adviser
Senator Shaheen (NH)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Vic Goetz
Health Policy Adviser
Senator Shaheen (NH)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Bennett Abrams
Senior Legislative Aide
Senator Slotkin (MI)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture, Animal Welfare & Environment

Senate invites

Austin Girelli
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Slotkin (MI)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Ani Tourmajan
Legislative Director
Senator Slotkin (MI)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture

Rachel Fybel
Health Policy Adviser
Senator Smith (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Sindhu Nathan
Legislative Assistant
Senator Smith (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Adam Schiff
Agriculture Legislative Assistant
Senator Smith (MN)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Alex Swanson
Legislative Assistant
Senator Van Hollen (MD)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Aiyha Abbeleagi
Legislative Assistant
Senator Warner (VA)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare

Micah Barbour
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Warner (VA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Environment

Colleen Nguyen
Senior Adviser, Health Policy
Senator Warner (VA)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Tyler Hofmann-Reardon
Legislative Assistant
Senator Warnock (GA)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Cydney Karlins
Legislative Assistant
Senator Warnock (GA)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Hanganh Vo
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Warren (MA)
Reason for invite: Handles Animal Welfare & Environment

Darryl Alexander
Policy Adviser
Senator Welch (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Thifeen Deen
Policy Adviser
Senator Welch (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Lukas Kauth
Legislative Assistant
Senator Welch (VT)
Reason for invite: Handles Environment

Ally Crha
Legislative Assistant
Senator Whitehouse (RI)
Reason for invite: Handles Health

Mariah Pfleger
Senior Policy Adviser
Senator Whitehouse (RI)
Reason for invite: Handles Agriculture & Animal Welfare

Senator Kaine (Farms are located in Virginia)
Senator Warner (Farms are located in Virginia)
Senator Booker (Leader on animal welfare policy issues)

June 16th ASPCA Farm Tour Agenda

- 9:15 AM: Leave U.S. Botanical Gardens, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001 to head to Kinloch Farm at 5313 Hopewell Road, The Plains, VA 20198
 - Tour participants will be traveling with farmers and issue experts, including:
 - Kara Shannon, Director of Farm Animal Welfare Policy, ASPCA
 - Daisy Freund, Vice President of Farm Animal Welfare, ASPCA
 - Rebecca Wolf, Senior Food Policy Analyst, Food & Water Watch
 - Hannah Tremblay, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Farm Aid
 - Samantha Gasson, Humane Farming Program Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)
 - Craig Watts, Contract Grower Transition Program Director, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)
 - Daniel Honig, Owner and Founder, Happy Valley Meat Company
 - Andrew Smith Sr., Owner, Smith Brothers Ranch
 - Diane Christofore, Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
 - Jake Davis, Farmer and Co-Owner, Root Cellar and Principal, Local Roots Strategies
 - **Amendment: Emma Newton and Rep. Samantha Vang, listed on the original agenda, were unable to attend**

We expect conversations related to farming practices and the impact of government programs on farm success and growth to occur during travel to and between stops.

- 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Arrive at Kinloch Farm
- 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Tour of Kinloch Farm led by farmer Mike Peterson
 - Tour participants will hear about the farm's history, animal welfare practices, production methods, and experience navigating the marketplace and reaching consumers. The farmer will highlight government-administered programs utilized to support the farm.
- 12:30 PM: Leave for Whiffletree Farm at 68717 Springs Road, Warrenton, VA 20186
- 1:00 PM: Arrive at Whiffletree Farm
- 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM: Lite lunch and facilitated conversation at Whiffletree Farm
 - ASPCA staff will facilitate conversations with the farmers and issue experts named above. They will connect the dots between government programs and agencies like those administered by USDA and the food system they help create.
- 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM: Tour of Whiffletree Farm led by farmer Jesse Straight
 - Tour participants will hear about the farm's history, animal welfare practices, animal and crop production methods, and experience navigating the marketplace and reaching consumers.
- 3:15 PM: Leave to return to DC
 - On the bus, farmers and issue experts will discuss how industrial animal agriculture's practices differ from those employed on the farms visited on the tour.
- 4:45 PM: Arrive back at U.S. Botanical Gardens, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001

JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, VICE CHAIRMAN

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA

BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SHANNON HAMMLTON KOPPLIN, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

TELEPHONE (202) 224-2981
FACSIMILE (202) 224-7418

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

June 9, 2025

A.V. Whitney
Office of Senator Corey A. Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear A.V. Whitney:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel to the *ASPCA Farm Tour* in The Plains, Virginia, on June 16, 2025, sponsored by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from ASPCA 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 Legislative Aide in the Office of Senator Corey A. Booker. ASPCA invited you to travel to the *ASPCA Farm Tour* in The Plains, Virginia, on June 16, 2025. ASPCA certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² 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. Although ASPCA retains or employs a federally registered lobbyist or foreign agent, ASPCA has certified that it is an organization designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code³ and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.⁴

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

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* at 10-13.

³ 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

⁴ The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 15.

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.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel (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.⁵ 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.⁶

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, Committee precedent, and ASPCA's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from ASPCA 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).

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,⁷ 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 \$480 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

⁵ The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-8.

⁶ See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-10.

⁷ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$150,160 for CY 2025) or is a political fund designee and is required to file financial disclosure reports.

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: Employee Privately Sponsored Travel Checklist

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:
A.V. Whitney

Employing Office/Committee:
BOOKER, CORY

Private Sponsor(s)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Destination(s)
Virginia farms - Kinloch Farm, and Whiffletree Farm

Travel Dates
06/16/2025 to 06/16/2025

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 is a tour of farms that use sustainable and higher-welfare practices, which will inform Senator Booker's work on the Agriculture Committee. I cover Agriculture for Senator Booker

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.

5/15/25
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)

Senator Booker

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

AV Whitney

(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)

5/15/25
Date


Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Whitney, A.V. (Booker)

From: Kara Shannon <FarmTour@aspca.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:31 PM
To: Whitney, A.V. (Booker)
Subject: You are invited to Join the ASPCA for a tour to meet local farmers and farm leaders from across the country

Friends,

You recently received an email from the Senate Ethics Travel Portal (subject line: Ethics Private Sponsor Travel Portal: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), inviting you to join us on **June 16, 2025** as we visit two farms about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C. that raise a variety of different animals using regenerative and pasture-based practices.

The tour will depart Capitol Hill at 9:15 AM and return by 4:00 PM with transportation and refreshments provided.

PLEASE RSVP by MAY 9th [HERE](#)

With our food and farm system in the national spotlight, it's critical that we take a deeper look at the role federal policies and programs play in shaping that system. At the ASPCA, we're dedicated to working with farmers and ranchers to determine how we can best support farms using more sustainable and higher-welfare practices. We want to share their stories and experiences with you, so we have organized a tour of two Virginia farms - Kinloch Farm and Whiffletree Farm.

We will be joined along the way by local and national experts on farming and farm policy to help connect the dots between on-the-ground practices and federal programs that support farmers.

This event is designed to comply with Senate Ethics Committee (ethics.senate.gov) rules.

- **This invitation is non-transferable.**
- Individuals must seek Senate Ethics Committee approval to attend the tour. For more information regarding requirements and forms please visit: <https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/travel>
- **YOU MUST REQUEST APPROVAL THROUGH THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL (PST) [PORTAL APP](#) BY MAY 19TH.**

Please register by completing this [RSVP form](#) no later than May 9th.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend or have any questions by emailing farmtour@aspca.org.

ABOUT THE ASPCA

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) was the first animal welfare organization to be established in North America and today serves as the nation's leading voice for animals. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with more than two million supporters nationwide, the ASPCA is committed to preventing cruelty to dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals throughout the United States.

ABOUT THE FARMS

Kinloch Farm: A conservation-minded farm regeneratively grazing Animal Welfare Approved, grass-fed beef cattle on over 3000 acres in Virginia's piedmont.

Whiffletree Farm: A first generation family farm in Warrenton, Virginia producing pasture-raised pork, chicken, turkey, eggs, and 100% grass-fed beef.