RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
08/27/2026
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 SEP -9 PM 4:27

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):
Climate Solutions Foundation

Travel Dates:
08/10/2026 to 08/13/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$630.65	$585.00	$273.00	$0.00

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.

08/27/2026
Date

Nicola Ritsch
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.

09/01/2026
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
Transportation	$630.65	Lower cost for flight when booked and ground transport and did not take advantage of the uber voucher offered to and from the airport.
Meals	$273.00	The cost proivided was estimated- this was the final cost.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

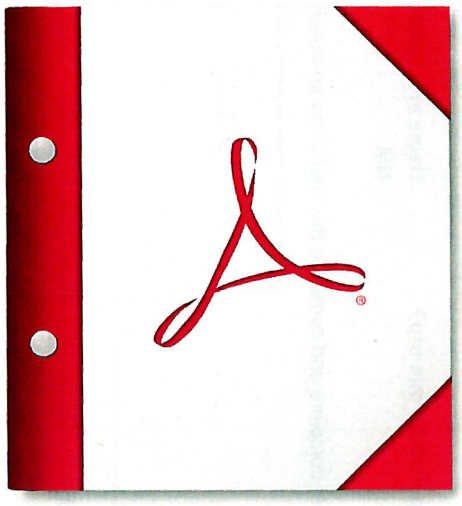
○ Yes ☑ No

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.



For the best experience, open this PDF portfolio in Acrobat X or Adobe Reader X, or later.

Get Adobe Reader Now!

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp
07/08/26

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:
NICOLA RITSCH

Employing Office/Committee:
COONS, CHRIS

Private Sponsor(s):
Climate Solutions Foundation

Destination(s):
Golden, Colorado

Travel Dates:
08/10/2026 to 08/13/2026
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.

NLR is a key implementing partner when it comes to how the federal government can connect research, demonstration, commercialization, workforce development, and private investment to build secure mineral supply chains in the U.S. The trip is a valuable opportunity to connect with relevant stakeholders in this space and gain firsthand insight into the full energy innovation pipeline, from research and development to commercialization and deployment while meeting other staffers working on the same issues. The program aligns closely with my portfolio on energy security, critical minerals, grid modernization, and emerging technologies.

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.

07/08/2026
Date

Nikki Ritsch
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 Christopher A. Coons
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Nicola Ritsch
(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)

07/09/2026

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Climate Solutions Foundation "CSF": Climate Solutions Foundation Staff trip National Laboratory of the Rockies (NRL)

Nicola Ritsch

Title:
Legislative Fellow

Employing Office/Committee:
COONS, CHRIS

Duty Station:
None

Destination(s):

Golden, Colorado

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

NLR is a key implementing partner when it comes to how the federal government can connect research, demonstration, commercialization, workforce development, and private investment to build secure mineral supply chains in the U.S. The trip is a valuable opportunity to connect with relevant stakeholders in this space and gain firsthand insight into the full energy innovation pipeline, from research and development to commercialization and deployment while meeting other staffers working on the same issues. The program aligns closely with my portfolio on energy security, critical minerals, grid modernization, and emerging technologies.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Climate Solutions Foundation "CSF"

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

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Private Foundation

Address
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Suite 410

Address 2 (Optional)
Suite 410

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20003 United States

Phone Number
3015186336

Organization URL
https://www.climatesolutionsfoundation.com/

History of Congressional Travel

Climate Solutions Foundation has been sponsoring trips over the years. We have hosted a number of trips including U.S. House Members and Senate Staff that participated in the Columbia University Climate Program in 2022, and also a visit to Calvert Cliffs in 2021, CSF has hosted trips to Idaho Falls, CERAWeek in Houston, Equinix's Ashburn data center, NYC Climate Week and COP programs over the years The Senate Staff And Senators have been invited to participate in the a number of these as well. Most recently Calvert Cliffs Tour in May of 2026.

Educational Activities

CSF's programing include roundtables, panels, dinners, and receptions with corporate partners, government officials, and international allies on domestic and global energy topics. CSF has expanded its programming to include domestic educational trips, international trips to the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) convenings, congressional staff briefings, receptions, and a congressional fellowship program.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

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

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

National Laboratory of the Rockies (NRL) in Colorado will provide programming, guided tours of both the South Table Mountain and Flatiron NRL campuses as well as the Colorado School of Mines, and visits to Fervo Energy, Xcel Energy, University of Colorado, Boulder Campus, NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory, and Colorado State University's SPUR campus. Staff will have the opportunity to explore and discuss the full innovation-to-deployment pipeline for energy technologies, grid modernization, critical minerals, the foundational science underpinning them, and the economic and regulatory dynamics shaping their investment, commercialization, and deployment. Their work on these topics and commitment to durable policy solutions will be a great asset to our delegation.

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

This bipartisan staff delegation offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with leading partners across the U.S. energy ecosystem, including federally funded laboratories, energy developers, academia, and utilities. By engaging with researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers in both formal and informal settings, staff will come away with actionable insights, stronger cross-sector relationships, and a clearer understanding of opportunities and challenges in advancing durable, bipartisan energy solutions.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] 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

- [x] 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

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] 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.

- [x] 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:
08/10/2026 @ 04:32 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/13/2026 @ 07:23 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: $950.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$650.00
Note Roundtrip		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$300.00
Note group transportation from hotel to the Labs and School oif mines and other site visits		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $585.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/10/2026	08/13/2026	Denver West Marriott	Golden	Colorado	United States	3	$195.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $299.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/10/2026	$0.00	$0.00	$45.00	$15.00	**$60.00**	Denver	Colorado	United States	No
08/11/2026	$20.00	$22.00	$38.00	$5.00	**$85.00**	Golden	Colorado	United States	No
08/12/2026	$20.00	$22.00	$38.00	$5.00	**$85.00**	Golden	Colorado	United States	No
08/13/2026	$20.00	$22.00	$27.00	$0.00	**$69.00**	denver	Colorado	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

Additional Attachments All additional attachments are below.

Document Name

CSF FInal Schedule

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: Climate Solitions Foundation (CSF) National Lab of the Rockies

Travel Date(s): August 10 - August 13, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Denver CO, Golden CO & Boulder, CO

Sponsor: Climate Solutions Foundation (CSF)

Alex Flint — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Chairman — *(title)*

(signature of sponsor representative)

6/15/2026 — *(date)*

First Name	Last Name	Title	Office
Jenna	Mayhew	Legislative Aide	Office of Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
Jennifer	Michael	Senior Professional Staff	Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Nicola	Ritsch	Legislative Fellow	Office of Senator Chris Coons (DE)
Tierney	Sturgeon	Legislative Correspondent	Office of Senator John Curtis (UT)

Climate Solutions FOUNDATION

Climate Solutions Foundation Bipartisan Staff Delegation to National Lab of the Rockies
August 10 – 13, 2026

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

4:32 PM ET	**Flight from DCA to DEN, United Flight #746**
6:25 PM MT	**Arrive DEN**
7:00 PM	**Drive to Denver West Marriott** *30-40 minute drive*
7:30 PM	**Check in at Denver West Marriott**
7:30 PM **9:00 PM**	**Dinner at Copper Creek Restaurant** **Marriott West Denver**
RON	**Denver West Marriott** *1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

7:00 AM	**Optional Staff Breakfast at Hotel**
7:30 AM	**Drive to CO School of Mines, Experimental Mine** *Edgar Mine, 365 8th Ave, Idaho Springs, CO 80452*
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**CO School of Mines, Experimental Mine**

The Edgar Experimental Mine provides a hands-on view of applied mining research, workforce training, and technology development in a real-world underground environment. This visit will (1) allow staff to observe how research and demonstration projects translate into operational mining practices, (2) ground policy discussions on critical minerals, domestic supply chains, and workforce in practical application, and (3) highlight the role of university-industry-government partnerships in advancing domestic critical mineral buildout across the U.S. mining and energy sectors.

Agenda:
8:00-8:20 AM Safety Briefing
8:20-9:00 AM Mine History & Overview of Experimental Mine Applied Work
9:00-10:00 AM Tour Demo Areas and Labs

10:00 AM **Drive to Colorado School of Mines (CSM)**
30-45 minute drive

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Colorado School of Mines Tour and Presentations**
1500 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401

10:45-11:15 AM Campus Tour, including new U.S. Geological Survey building *(Speaker: Lisa Knizel, Director of Research & Development, CO School of Mines)*

11:15-12:30 PM Staff Briefing with Payne Institute for Public Policy *(Speakers: Morgan Bazilian, Director of Payne Institute of Public Policy | Ian Lange, Professor of Economics & Business | Elizabeth Holley, Associate Professor of Mining Engineering | Alicia Polo, Executive Director of Critical Minerals Strategy & Advancement | Bill Zisch, Head of Mining Engineering*

Providing high-level background on Research, Innovation, Geopolitics, Economics:

- Critical Minerals 101
- Advanced critical mineral discovery, extraction, processing technologies
- Critical mineral economics and geopolitics
- Quantum research, supply chains, and applications
- Integration with federal research, development, and deployment capabilities (e.g., NLR and the national lab system)

Critical Minerals Roundtable
Speakers: School of Mines alongside industry partners USA Rare Earths, Energy Fuels, Endolith, Alta Resource Technologies (speakers TBC)

This roundtable on critical minerals will convene traditional mining operators alongside emerging technology companies working to modernize mineral extraction, processing, and supply chain resilience. The discussion will provide staff an opportunity to examine how evolving technologies, domestic resource development, and public-private collaboration can support U.S. critical mineral security, while also exploring workforce, permitting, sustainability, and market challenges shaping the future of the sector.

12:30 PM **Drive to NLR South Table Mountain Campus**
15 minute drive

12:45 PM **Arrive at NLR South Table Mountain Campus**
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401

12:45 PM – 1:30 PM **Introduction from NLR Leadership Team (Lunch Provided)**
Education Center for check-in, then to Research Support Facility, (x320A-C, Beaver Creek Conference Room)

The staff will meet the Leadership and learn more about the Research Support Facility with an overview of what they will see and experience during the afternoon with the many visits to many of their research labs and testing facilities.

1:30 PM – 4:45 PM **NLR South Table Mountain Campus Tour & Presentations**

Speakers: Jud Virden, Laboratory Director, Alliance President;
Adam Bratis, Chief Research Officer, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director;
Jaquelin Cochran, Associate Laboratory Director, Strategic Energy Analysis and Decision Sciences;
John Farrell, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Security and Systems Innovation;
Maureen McCann, Associate Laboratory Director, *Bioeconomy and Transportation;*
Bill Tumas, Associate Laboratory Director, Materials, Chemical, and Computational Science;
Andrea Watson, Associate Laboratory Director, Innovation, Partnering, and Outreach;
Dan Beckley, Associate Laboratory Director, Facilities and Operations;
Kirstin Alberi, Center Director, Materials Science Center;
Josh Schaidle, Laboratory Program Manager, Carbon Management.

Agenda:
1:30-3:15 PM Tour of Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF), including:
1:30-1:50 PM Kestrel, NLR's High-Performance Computing (HPC) data center
1:50-2:10 PM 2D and 3D Visualization Rooms
2:10-2:35 PM Energy Security and Reliability Laboratory (ESRL)
2:35-3:00 PM Agora Large-Load Test Bed
3:00-3:25 PM Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems (ARIES) capabilities
3:25-3:45 PM Tour Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility (IBRF)
3:45-4:45 PM Tour of Energy Materials & Processing at Scale (EMAPS) Facility

Drive to Reception & Dinner Venue
240 Union Restaurant, Lakewood Room
240 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO

4:45 PM *15 minute drive*

5:00 PM –7:30 PM **Pre-Dinner Reception & Dinner -240 Union**

Staff will attend dinner alongside NLR and Colorado School of Mines (CSM) researchers and faculty, including those from the CSM Payne Institute for Public Policy. In participating, staff will have the opportunity to engage directly with technical and policy experts, allowing staff to explore specific areas of interest and continue more in-depth discussions building on insights from the day's site visits.

RON **Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

7:30 AM **Optional Staff Breakfast at Hotel**

8:00 AM **Drive to NLR Flatiron Campus in Golden, CO**
30 minute drive

8:30 AM **Arrive at NLR Flatiron Campus**
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM **NLR Flatiron Campus Tour & Presentations**
Speakers: Jud Virden, Laboratory Director, Alliance President;
Adam Bratis, Chief Research Officer, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director;
John Farrell, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Security and Systems Innovation;
Daniel Laird, Director, National Wind Technology Center;
Jen Kurtz, Research Director, ARIES, Center Director, Energy Conversion and Storage Systems;
Andrew Hudgins, Laboratory Program Manager, ARIES/ESIF.

Agenda
8:30-8:45 AM Breakfast and Welcome from NLR Leadership and Flatirons Researchers
8:45-9:15 AM Flatirons Campus and ARIES Overview
9:15-12:00 PM Flatirons Campus Tour:
9:15-9:45 AM: ARIES large-scale systems integration
9:45-10:05 AM: Waterpower Research (LAMP, marine energy, hydropower)
10:05-10:25 AM: DRTS & 5-Megawatt Dynamometers (Equipment Testing Center)
10:25-10:45 AM: Composites Manufacturing Education and Technology (CoMET) Facility
10:45-11:15 AM: Structural Characterization (STL)
11:15 AM-11:40 PM: Research Pads, Energy Storage Infrastructure, Industrial Technologies
11:40-12:00 PM: Control Center Facility

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch with ARIES Leadership and Flatirons Research Staff**
This lunch with ARIES and other lab leadership and research staff will provide staff an opportunity to engage directly with NLR leadership and researchers, ask follow-up questions on the Lab's work, and synthesize themes across the site visits. The discussion will help connect observations from the tour and prior engagements into a broader understanding of how research, demonstration, and deployment efforts intersect across the regional energy and innovation ecosystem.

Drive to CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center
1700 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401

10 minute drive

1:40 PM – 2:10 PM **CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center Introduction by Leadership**
Speaker: Zach Bennett, Director of Beck Venture Center and Mines Venture Program

The Colorado School of Mines Beck Venture Center will provide staff with an overview of how university-led entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and startup incubation support the commercialization of emerging energy and industrial technologies. This brief will highlight how the Center connects researchers, students, investors, and industry partners to accelerate the pathway from research and development to market deployment, while strengthening regional innovation and workforce ecosystems.

2:10 PM – 3:10 PM **Innovation & Commercialization Roundtable**
CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center
Speakers: Zach Bennett, Director of Beck Venture Center | Trish Cozart, Director of National Lab of the Rockies' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center | Fervo Energy Speaker TBC | Additional Private Sector Partner TBC

This roundtable on innovation and commercialization will bring together leaders from the Colorado School of Mines, NLR, and several supported startups to examine how research partnerships move technologies from laboratory concepts to deployable solutions. The discussion will provide staff insight into the challenges and opportunities associated with scaling emerging technologies, aligning federal research investments with private-sector needs, and fostering collaboration across universities, laboratories, startups, and industry partners to strengthen U.S. competitiveness and innovation capacity.

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM **Quantum Computing Roundtable**
CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center
Speakers: Fred Saarazin, Professor/Dept. Head of Physics | Jessi Olsen, CEO, Elevate Quantum | Corben Tillemann-Dick, Founder & CEO, Maybell Quantum

This roundtable with regional ecosystem partners will provide staff an opportunity to engage directly with leaders across Colorado's quantum computing ecosystem, including industry, research, and the private sector. The discussion will help contextualize the region's role in advancing quantum technologies and explore implications for national competitiveness, workforce development, and energy-intensive computing infrastructure, highlighting how public-private collaboration is accelerating research, commercialization, and supply chain growth in this emerging sector.

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM **Walk to Reception**
Buffalo Rose – State Room 1119 Washington Avenue, Golden, CO

10 minute walk

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM **Reception at Buffalo Rose-State Room**
Staff will attend a reception alongside industry partners from the day's roundtables and the NLR ARIES Advisory Board, which includes representatives from the Department of Energy, NLR executive leadership, industry, academia, and other government agencies. This setting provides a valuable opportunity to engage a broader set of energy ecosystem stakeholders and continue more in-depth, informal conversations building on themes from the day's site visits.

RON **Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH – DENVER, CO

8:30 AM	**Check Out from Hotel**
8:30 AM	**Drive to Xcimer**
8:30 AM – 9:00	**Drive time to Xcimer**
9:00 AM	**Arrive at Xcimer** *10325 E 47th Avenue, Denver, CO*
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	**Xcimer Facility Tour & Fusion Discussion** *Speakers: TBC from Xcimer | Dr. Jenifer Shafer, Professor of Nuclear Chemistry, CO School of Mines* This visit to Xcimer will provide staff with an opportunity to explore the technologies being developed to advance commercial fusion energy. Through a facility tour and discussion with company leadership and technical experts, staff will gain insight into the science and engineering needed to bring fusion online, the role of fusion in meeting future energy demand, and the key research, infrastructure, workforce, and policy considerations necessary to scale fusion from the lab bench to the electric grid. The conversation will also examine the broader fusion ecosystem, including public-private partnerships, supply chain needs, and the potential economic and energy security benefits of establishing U.S. leadership in this emerging industry.
11:00 AM – 11:30	**Drive to Denver International Airport**
1:58 PM	**Depart- Denver airport for 1:58 PM flight to**
7:23 PM ET	**Arrive IAD**

Question 12
The trip is organized by the Climate Solutions Foundation (CSF), a bipartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering dialogue among Members of Congress, their staff, industry leaders, and global experts on climate science, economics, and policy.

CSF's interest in the subject matter of this trip is directly aligned with its mission to advance practical, bipartisan solutions to climate and energy challenges. By facilitating this staff trip, there is an opportunity to observe firsthand the strategic push for domestic energy independence, critical minerals extraction, and solar energy development. In addition to understanding about supply chains and how the U.S. is "just-shoring" resource supply chains, extracting critical materials for electric vehicles, and addressing the geopolitical realities of clean-tech manufacturing.

Climate Solutions FOUNDATION

Climate Solutions Foundation
Bicameral Staff Delegation to National Lab of the Rockies
Minday, August 10 – Thursday, August 13, 2026

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

4:32 PM ET **Flight from DCA to DEN, United Flight #746**

6:25 PM MT **Arrive DEN**

7:00 PM **Drive to Denver West Marriott**

30-40 minute drive

7:30 PM **Check in at Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

TIME **Dinner at the Hotel Upon arrival**

RON **Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

7:00 AM **Optional Staff Breakfast at Hotel**

7:30 AM **Drive to CO School of Mines, Experimental Mine**
Edgar Mine, 365 8th Ave, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM **CO School of Mines, Experimental Mine**
The Edgar Experimental Mine provides a hands-on view of applied mining research, workforce training, and technology development in a real-world underground environment. This visit will (1) allow staff to observe how research and demonstration projects translate into operational mining practices, (2) ground policy discussions on critical minerals, domestic supply chains, and workforce in practical application, and (3) highlight the role of university-industry-government partnerships in advancing domestic critical mineral buildout across the U.S. mining and energy sectors.

Agenda:
8:00-8:20 AM Safety Briefing
8:20-9:00 AM Mine History & Overview of Experimental Mine Applied Work
9:00-10:00 AM Tour Demo Areas and Labs

10:00 AM **Drive to Colorado School of Mines (CSM)**

30-45 minute drive

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Colorado School of Mines Tour and Presentations**
1500 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401
Colorado School of Mines is a partner of NLR and provides an applied perspective on energy systems, critical minerals, and subsurface engineering—issues central to both energy security and economic growth. Staff will have the opportunity to understand workforce development from an academic institution with ties to both the federally operated national lab and industry. This will help staff understand the technical expertise needed for the future of the US energy industry, challenges facing domestic energy supply chains, and collaboration underway between the public and private sectors and academic institutions.

Campus Tour – Mines Museum of Earth Science
Bus will drop group off at Mines Museum of Earth Science | 1310 Maple Street, Golden 80401

10:45-11:15 AM Campus Tour, including new U.S. Geological Survey building
Speaker: Lisa Kinzel, Director of Research & Development, CO School of Mines)

3 minute drive or 10-minute walk

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Critical Minerals Roundtable – Beck Venture Center, 1st Floor Pitch Deck Room**
Bus meets group at Beck Venture Center | 1700 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401
The session brings together academic experts from the Colorado School of Mines and National Lab of the Rockies with industry partners to examine the path forward on domestic mineral production.

Agenda
11:30 AM – 11:35 AM **Welcome & Introductions**
11:35 AM – 11:45 AM **Critical Minerals Overview—Elizabeth Holley**
11:45 AM – 12:20 PM **Joint Expert & Industry Roundtable**
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM **Final Questions & Key Takeaways**

Speakers: *Morgan Bazilian, Director of Payne Institute of Public Policy | Ian Lange, Professor of Economics & Business | Elizabeth Holley, Associate Professor of Mining Engineering | Alicia Polo, Executive Director of Critical Minerals Strategy & Advancement | Bill Zisch, Head of Mining Engineering*

Session Objectives
- Critical Minerals 101
- Advanced critical mineral discovery, extraction, processing technologies
- Critical mineral economics and geopolitics
- Quantum research, supply chains, and applications
- Integration with federal research, development, and deployment capabilities (e.g., NLR and the national lab system.

12:30 PM **Drive to NLR South Table Mountain Campus**
15 minute drive

12:45 PM **Arrive at NLR South Table Mountain Campus**
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401

12:45 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch & Introduction from NLR Leadership Team**
Education Center for check-in, then to Research Support Facility, (x320A-C, Beaver Creek Conference Room)
Lunch with the NLR leadership team offers will provide staff with an informal opportunity to connect with senior lab leadership before the campus tour begins. It will also orient staff on the lab's overarching work and form initial relationships with personnel, preparing them to engage more deeply during the tour and presentations.

1:30 PM – 4:45 PM **NLR South Table Mountain Campus Tour & Presentations**
Speakers: *Jud Virden, Laboratory Director, Alliance President;*
Adam Bratis, Chief Research Officer, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director;
Jaquelin Cochran, Associate Laboratory Director, Strategic Energy Analysis and Decision Sciences;
John Farrell, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Security and Systems Innovation;
Maureen McCann, Associate Laboratory Director, Bioeconomy and Transportation;
Bill Tumas, Associate Laboratory Director, Materials, Chemical, and Computational Science;
Andrea Watson, Associate Laboratory Director, Innovation, Partnering, and Outreach;
Dan Beckley, Associate Laboratory Director, Facilities and Operations;
Kirstin Alberi, Center Director, Materials Science Center;
Josh Schaidle, Laboratory Program Manager, Carbon Management.

The National Laboratory of the Rockies Golden Campus offers a comprehensive view of federally supported research and development work on energy and security, from critical minerals processing and grid integration to advanced material development and demonstration sites. This visit will (1) allow staff to observe federal dollars at work, (2) ground policy discussions on innovation pipelines, and (3) highlight how public-private partnerships accelerate technology deployment.

Agenda:
1:30-4:45 PM Tour of Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF), including:

1:30-1:50 PM Kestrel, NLR's High-Performance Computing (HPC) data center
1:50-2:10 PM 2D and 3D Visualization Rooms
2:10-2:35 PM Energy Security and Reliability Laboratory (ESRL)
2:35-3:00 PM Agora Large-Load Test Bed
3:00-3:25 PM Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems (ARIES) capabilities
3:25-3:45 PM Tour Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility (IBRF)
3:45-4:45 PM Tour of Energy Materials & Processing at Scale (EMAPS) Facility

4:45 PM **Drive to Reception & Dinner at 240 Union**
240 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

15 minute drive

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM **Pre-Dinner Reception & Dinner**
Staff will attend a pre-dinner reception alongside NLR and Colorado School of Mines (Mines) researchers and faculty, as well as industry and private sector partners that make up NLR's Foundation. In participating, staff will have the opportunity to discuss the days' events and form relationships with cross-sector experts to dig deeper into areas of interest.

7:30 PM **Drive to Hotel**

10 minute drive

RON **Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

7:30 AM **Optional Staff Breakfast at Hotel**

8:00 AM **Drive to NLR Flatiron Campus in Golden, CO**
30 minute drive

8:30 AM **Arrive at NLR Flatiron Campus**
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM **NLR Flatiron Campus Tour & Presentations**
Speakers: *Jud Virden, Laboratory Director, Alliance President;*
Adam Bratis, Chief Research Officer, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director;
John Farrell, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Security and Systems Innovation;
Daniel Laird, Director, National Wind Technology Center;
Jen Kurtz, Research Director, ARIES, Center Director, Energy Conversion and Storage Systems;
Andrew Hudgins, Laboratory Program Manager, ARIES/ESIF.

NLR's Flatron Campus focuses on large-scale power systems testing and research. This visit will provide staff with the opportunity to see multiple energy systems operating at scale, gain insights into the major research questions related to each, and consider how applied energy innovation can advance more affordable, reliable, and secure energy for our nation.

Agenda
8:30-8:45 AM Breakfast and Welcome from NLR Leadership and Flatirons Researchers
8:45-9:15 AM Flatirons Campus and ARIES Overview

9:15-12:00 PM Flatirons Campus Tour:
9:15-9:45 AM: ARIES large-scale systems integration
9:45-10:05 AM: Waterpower Research (LAMP, marine energy, hydropower)
10:05-10:25 AM: DRTS & 5-Megawatt Dynamometers (Equipment Testing Center)
10:25-10:45 AM: Composites Manufacturing Education and Technology (CoMET) Facility
10:45-11:15 AM: Structural Characterization (STL)
11:15 AM-11:40 PM: Research Pads, Energy Storage Infrastructure, Industrial Technologies
11:40 AM-12:00 PM: Control Center Facility

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch with ARIES Leadership and Flatirons Research Staff**
This lunch with ARIES and other lab leadership and research staff will provide staff an opportunity to engage directly with NLR leadership and researchers, ask follow-up questions on the Lab's work, and synthesize themes across the site visits. The discussion will help connect observations from the tour and prior engagements into a broader understanding of how research, demonstration, and deployment efforts intersect across the regional energy and innovation ecosystem.

1:30 PM **Drive to CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center**
1700 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401

10 minute drive

1:40 PM – 2:10 PM **CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center Introduction by Leadership**
Speaker: Andrew Miller, Beck Venture Center and Mines Venture Program

The Colorado School of Mines Beck Venture Center will provide staff with an overview of how university-led entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and startup incubation support the commercialization of emerging energy and industrial technologies. This brief will highlight how the Center connects researchers, students, investors, and industry partners to accelerate the pathway from research and development to market deployment, while strengthening regional innovation and workforce ecosystems.

2:10 PM – 3:10 PM **Innovation & Commercialization Roundtable –**
CO School of Mines Beck Venture Center, 1st floor Pitch Deck Room
***Speakers**: Andrew Miller, Director of Startup Success, Mines Beck Venture Center,*
Trish Cozart, Director of National Lab of the Rockies' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center
Katie Richardson, Group Manager, IEC
Daniel Betts, CEO, Blue Frontier
Matt Aguayo, CEO, EnKoat
Shelly Curtiss, Program Director, West Gate
Kian Lopez, Co-Founder & CEO, OsmoPure Technologies
Ana Aday, NLR Principal Investigator for Big Blue Technologies
Zach Millimet, Government Affairs, Darcy Solutions
Barry Mather, DC Grid Technologies
Gus Marquez, Founder & CEO, Stalamite
Tyler Evans, CEO & Army SBIR Awardee, Mana Battery

This roundtable on innovation and commercialization will bring together leaders from the Colorado School of Mines, NLR, and several supported startups to examine how research partnerships move technologies from laboratory concepts to deployable solutions. The discussion will provide staff insight into the challenges and opportunities associated with scaling emerging technologies, aligning federal research investments with private-sector needs, and fostering collaboration across universities, laboratories, startups, and industry partners to strengthen U.S. competitiveness and innovation capacity.

3:15 - 3:30 PM **Break**

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM **Quantum Roundtable – 1st Floor, Pitch Deck Room**

The global race for quantum supremacy is as much an economic and national security battle as it is a scientific one. This roundtable brings together academic leaders, federal coalition builders, and hardware manufacturing founders to discuss Colorado's position as a federally designated Quantum Tech Hub. Rather than focusing on abstract physics, this session will address the gritty, real-world realities of building a domestic quantum industry: securing highly specialized hardware supply chains, training a new class of blue-collar technical workers, and ensuring the U.S. out-innovates global adversaries in critical defense capabilities.

Session Objectives

- **Assess National Security & The Global Race:** Understand how quantum computing, sensing, and cryptography impact U.S. defense readiness and what is required to maintain a decisive lead over foreign adversaries (specifically China).
- **Identify Domestic Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Pinpoint critical bottlenecks in the quantum hardware supply chain—such as high-end cryogenics and specialized helium dilution refrigerators—and how to secure them domestically.
- **Evaluate the Quantum Workforce:** See how the industry is moving beyond PhDs to create high-paying manufacturing, machining, and technician jobs.
- **Formulate Bipartisan Policy Solutions:** Identify practical federal levers—including tech hub funding, capital access for hardware startups, defense procurement pathways, and export controls—to accelerate commercialization.

4:15 – 4:30 PM **Q&A and Policy Deep Dive:** Open dialogue for staff to ask about specific upcoming legislation (e.g., NDAA, NQI Reauthorization), and targeted infrastructure funding.

4:30 PM – 4:50 PM **Walk to Reception**
Buffalo Rose | 1119 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401
2 minute walk

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM **Reception at Buffalo Rose**

Staff will attend a reception alongside industry partners from the day's roundtables and the NLR ARIES Advisory Board, which includes representatives from the Department of Energy, NLR executive leadership, industry, academia, and other government agencies. This setting provides a valuable opportunity to engage a broader set of energy ecosystem stakeholders and continue more in-depth, informal conversations building on themes from the day's site visits.

RON **Denver West Marriott**
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

8:30 AM **Check Out from Hotel**

8:30 AM **Drive to Xcimer Facility**

30 minute drive

9:00 AM **Arrive at Xcimer Facility**
10325 East 47th Ave., Denver, CO 80238, USA

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM **Xcimer Facility Tour & Fusion Discussion**
Speakers: TBC from Xcimer | Dr. Jenifer Shafer, Professor of Nuclear Chemistry, CO School of Mines

This visit to Xcimer will provide staff with an opportunity to explore the technologies being developed to advance commercial fusion energy. Through a facility tour and discussion with company leadership and technical experts, staff will gain insight into the science and engineering needed to bring fusion online, the role of fusion in meeting future energy demand, and the key research, infrastructure, workforce, and policy considerations necessary to scale fusion from the lab bench to the electric grid. The conversation will also examine the broader fusion ecosystem, including public-private partnerships, supply chain needs, and the potential economic and energy security benefits of establishing U.S. leadership in this emerging industry.

11:30 AM – 11:50 **Drive to Denver International Airport**

20-minute drive

1:58 PM MT **Depart DEN for IAD, United Flight #347**

7:23 PM ET **Arrive IAD**