RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 JUN -5 AM 11:32

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):
Innovative Future Collective

Travel Dates:
05/04/2026 to 05/09/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$2,014.00	$654.00	$195.00	$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.

6/3-26
Date

PAOLA MARQUEZ
Printed Name of Traveler

paola marquez
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.

06/04/2026
Date

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☑ Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Meals	$195.00	Meal costs were less than anticipated per person. Lunch on May 6 was $20 per person and dinner was $75 per person. This brought the total meal costs for the trip to $195.
Transportation	$2,014.00	Cost of airfare at time of booking exceeded original estimate.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☑ Yes ○ No

Explanation: Due to scheduling changes, the Irish government leaders who presented to the group at Leinster House included: Dee Ryan, Mark Daly, Keira Keogh, Naoise Ó Cearúil, and Malcolm Byrne.

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

○ Yes ☑ No

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

Innovative Future Collective
100 M St. SE
Suite 330
Washington, DC 20003

March 25, 2026

Dear Paola,

As you know, IFC is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization committed to helping policymakers and the public better understand artificial intelligence, its applications across industries, and its implications for our future. Our mission is to provide educational experiences that are dynamic, hands-on, and grounded in real-world examples.

To enhance understanding of AI's application in business and its development, **we are pleased to invite you to an educational trip to Dublin, Ireland, scheduled for May 5-7, 2026.**

Due to limited space, we kindly request that you confirm your intention to participate and submit your documents **before 5:00 PM ET on Thursday, April 2nd.** If you are unable to attend and will not be submitting materials to the Ethics Committee, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the programming or the trip, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at lacy@innovativefuturecollective.com.

Sincerely,

Lacy Broemel
Director of Programming and Sponsor Engagement
Innovative Future Collective (IFC)

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:
PAOLA MARQUEZ

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Private Sponsor(s):
Innovative Future Collective

Destination(s):
Dublin, Ireland

Travel Dates:
05/05/2026 to 05/07/2026
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.

Policy advisor covering technology and artificial intelligence for Senator Merkley.

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.

4-2-26
Date

Paola Marquez
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 Jeff Merkley
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Paola Marquez
(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.

[X] (signify "yes" by checking box)

04/02/2026
Date

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Innovative Future Collective: Innovative Future Collective Dublin Educational Trip 2026

PAOLA MARQUEZ

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Dublin, Ireland

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

Policy advisor covering technology and artificial intelligence for Senator Merkley.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Innovative Future Collective

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address 2 (Optional)
Suite 330

Phone Number
6159488550

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

(●) Yes ( ) No

Address
100 M St SE

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

Organization URL
www.innovativefuturecollective.com

History of Congressional Travel

Innovative Future Collective (IFC) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) with IRS-approved tax-exempt status that was formed in 2024. In June 2025, it sponsored its first Congressional Travel with a staff delegation to the San Francisco area that provided educational opportunities on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in business, as well as the development of AI. It hosted a similar staff delegation educational trip to London in November 2025, New York City in January 2026, and Los Angeles in February 2026.

Educational Activities

IFC hosts educational briefings open to the public throughout the country and Washington DC. This includes a "scholar series" program, where we bring experts and academics together for panel discussions and Q and A that are open to the public to learn, understand, and question how AI is influencing and shaping industry. We also provide opportunities for the community to see, learn, and experience developments in AI technology.

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.

This is an educational trip to Dublin, Ireland with one calendar day of programming, to provide an opportunity for staff to learn about current applications and future prospects of AI technology. It will include education about the research, development, and deployment of AI across industries and by startups and larger companies.

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

This trip will bring together AI experts, researchers, developers, and federal policymakers to share knowledge about AI, including future and current uses. It will address the pros and cons associated with AI. The trip will allow for discussion around AI and visualization of the technology and how it is developed.

- Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

  ☑ Yes ○ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

☑ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

☑ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

☑ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

○ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

☑ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

> In order to maximize the one day of programming, we must begin programming at breakfast time. Due to the long nature of the flight and the flights times offered from the United States to Dublin, Ireland, participants must arrive the night before programming. We have selected a direct flight from Washington, DC to meet this requirement, which minimizes the time on the ground in Dublin, but allows for a night of sleep and early morning programming the following day.

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

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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 not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
05/04/2026 @ 07:10 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
05/09/2026 @ 03:35 PM

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

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,685.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$1,482.00
Note Round-trip flight from IAD to DUB		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$110.00
Note Minibus for travel on programming day		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$93.00
Note Minibus for transport to/from airport and hotel		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $654.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
05/05/2026	05/07/2026	Maldron Hotel Pearse Street	Dublin		Ireland	2	$327.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $255.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/05/2026	$0.00	$50.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$100.00**	Dublin		Ireland	No
05/06/2026	$0.00	$50.00	$105.00	$0.00	**$155.00**	Dublin		Ireland	No

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

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

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: Innovative Future Collective Educational Trip Dublin 2026

Travel Date(s): May 4, 2026- May 7, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Dublin, Ireland

Sponsor: Innovative Future Collective, Inc.

Ashley Kennedy
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Board Member
(title)

(signature of sponsor representative)

3-17-26
(date)

Invitee List

First Name	Last Name	Office	Title
Caitlyn	Stephenson	Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)	Chief of Staff
Rebecca	Avita	Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Chief of Staff
Brigid	Ueland	Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	Legislative Assistant
Rebecca	Schatz	Seator Adam Schiff (D-CA)	Legislative Director
Brannon	Rains	Senator Todd Young (R-IN)	Policy Adviser
Mark	Wait	Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)	Chief of Staff
Paola	Marquez	Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Policy Adviser
Andy	Downing	Senator Tim Sheehy (R-MT)	Senior Legislative Assistant
Isaiah	Akin	Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Legislative Director
Jasmine	Dimitriou	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Staff Director, Minority
Ryan	Alban	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)	Chief of Staff
Meredith	West	Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Staff Director, Majority
Jed	D'Ercole	Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Deputy Chief of Staff
Kevin	Diamond	Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Legislative Director
Amy	Pfeiffer	Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)	Chief of Staff
Jon	Foltz	Office of the Senate Republican Steering Committee	Executive Director
Graham	Mason	Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)	Legislative Director
Sean	Brebbia	Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee	Chief Counsel, Majority
Angela	Ramponi	Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Legislative Director
Corey	Becker	Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Chief Counsel
Mary	Silverthorn	Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Legislative Director

INNOVATIVE FUTURE COLLECTIVE

AGENDA FOR:
Innovative Future Collective's Staff Delegation Learning Trip to Dublin, Ireland

*All times listed are local to Dublin, Ireland (GMT) unless otherwise indicated

Monday, May 4, 2026

7:10 PM ET	**United Flight #310** *IAD to DUB* **Overnight, land on Tuesday AM*

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:20 AM- 9:00 AM	**Land at Dublin Airport, Customs** *Swords Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X4X5, Ireland*
9:00 AM- 9:45 AM	**Transport to Maldron Hotel Pearse Street** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* *Via Private Charter Bus*
9:45 AM- 10:45 AM	**Hotel Check In** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
10:45 AM- 8:00 PM	**Executive Time for Travellers Before Programming Day**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00 AM- 8:00 AM	**Breakfast and Overview Briefing of Day at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* ***Speaker:*** *Lacy Broemel, Director of Programming and Sponsor Engagement, IFC* **Topic of Discussion:** *Introduce IFC and discuss program day educational goals, expectations, and logistics.*
8:00 AM- 9:15 AM	**Transport to KerryGroup**

	Millennium Park, Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland *32 km, 1 hour driving*
9:15 AM- 10:30 AM	**Visit KerryGroup** *Millennium Park, Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland* ***Presenter:*** *Mark Faherty, Senior Director External Affairs* ***Topic of Discussion:*** *Kerry is a world-leading provider of speciality ingredients to the food, beverage, and pharma industries, and Ireland's largest agri-food business, employing over 19,000 people globally, including over 5,000 in North America. In recent years, Kerry has undertaken an ambitious programme of transformation, deploying AI and Digital capabilities to improve how it innovates, serves its customers, and undertakes its operations. Executives and subject matter experts from Kerry Group will engage to share an oversight of what the company does, and how it is leveraging AI and Digital capabilities in its business.*
10:30 AM- 11:30 AM	**Transport to Stripe Office** *One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland* *32 km, 1 hour driving*
11:30 AM- 12:30 PM	**Visit Stripe Office** *One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland* ***Presenter:*** *Brian Brady, Dublin Site Lead* ***Topic of Discussion:*** *The visit will include a brief history of Stripe, history of innovation in Ireland, Stripe's role in the Irish ecosystem, and a demo on Stripe's AI tools.*
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	**Lunch** *One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland* ***Topic of Discussion:*** *Staff delegation discuss learnings of the trip.*
1:30 PM- 2:00 PM	**Transport to AWS StartUp Loft** *2 Charlemont St, Saint Kevin's, Dublin, D02 Y978, Ireland* *1.9 km, 12 mins driving*
2:00 PM- 3:15 PM	**Visit AWS StartUp Loft**

2 Charlemont St, Saint Kevin's, Dublin, D02 Y978, Ireland

Presenters: *Ed Brophy, Head of Ireland Public Policy; Conor Brennan, Public Policy Manager, Ireland; Ben Connolly, Public Policy*

Topic of Discussion: *The visit will focus on AI adoption among Irish startups and scale-ups, and the broader economic impact of cloud infrastructure investment in the region. AWS will feature a startup customer/partner and an overview of AWS programs designed to help early-stage companies build and scale AI-powered products, including startup support initiatives. Experts will discuss Ireland's emergence as a European hub for AI innovation, the policy environment shaping responsible AI development, and how public-private collaboration can help ensure that the benefits of AI are broadly shared.*

3:15 PM- 3:45 PM **Transport to Leinster House**
Leinster House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 TK75, Ireland
1.9 km, 12 mins driving

3:45 PM- 5:00 PM **Visit with Irish Government Leaders**
Leinster House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 TK75, Ireland

Presenters: *Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on AI, Deputy Malcolm Byrne; Vice Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on AI, Deputy James Geoghan*

Topic of Discussion: *Discussion with Members of Irish Government on AI.*

5:00 PM- 5:30 PM **Transport to Ubotica Offices**
11 Old Finglas Rd, Glasnevin, Dublin, D11 KXN4, Ireland
6.8 km, 30 mins drive

5:30 PM- 6:30 PM **Visit Ubotica Offices**
11 Old Finglas Rd, Glasnevin, Dublin, D11 KXN4, Ireland

Presenters: *Brian Quinn, Chief Strategy Officer*

Topic of Discussion: *The visit will feature demos of Ubotica's AI-powered space satellite technology.*

6:30 PM- 7:00 PM **Transport to Hotel**

	Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland *5.5 km, 20 mins drive*
7:00 PM- 7:15 PM	**Regroup at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
7:15 PM- 7:30 PM	**Transport to Dinner** *41 Westmoreland St, Dublin, D02 VY45, Ireland* *1.6 km, 7 min driving, 16 min walking*
7:30 PM- 9:30 PM	**Dinner at Gloria Osteria Dublin** *41 Westmoreland St, Dublin, D02 VY45, Ireland*
9:30 PM- 9:45 PM	**Transport to Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* *1.6 km, 7 min driving, 16 min walking*
Thursday, May 7, 2026	
8:30 AM- 9:15 AM	**Breakfast at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
Saturday, May 9 2026	
12:30 PM- 3:35 PM ET	**United Flight #229** *DUB to IAD*

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

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Private Sponsor(s):
Innovative Future Collective

Travel Dates:
05/04/2026 to 05/09/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

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- **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.

6/3-26
Date

PAOLA MARQUEZ
Printed Name of Traveler

paola marquez
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.

06/04/2026
Date

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

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Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☑ Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Meals	$195.00	Meal costs were less than anticipated per person. Lunch on May 6 was $20 per person and dinner was $75 per person. This brought the total meal costs for the trip to $195.
Transportation	$2,014.00	Cost of airfare at time of booking exceeded original estimate.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☑ Yes ○ No

Explanation: Due to scheduling changes, the Irish government leaders who presented to the group at Leinster House included: Dee Ryan, Mark Daly, Keira Keogh, Naoise Ó Cearúil, and Malcolm Byrne.

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

○ Yes ☑ No

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

Innovative Future Collective
100 M St. SE
Suite 330
Washington, DC 20003

March 25, 2026

Dear Paola,

As you know, IFC is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization committed to helping policymakers and the public better understand artificial intelligence, its applications across industries, and its implications for our future. Our mission is to provide educational experiences that are dynamic, hands-on, and grounded in real-world examples.

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Due to limited space, we kindly request that you confirm your intention to participate and submit your documents **before 5:00 PM ET on Thursday, April 2nd.** If you are unable to attend and will not be submitting materials to the Ethics Committee, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the programming or the trip, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at lacy@innovativefuturecollective.com.

Sincerely,

Lacy Broemel
Director of Programming and Sponsor Engagement
Innovative Future Collective (IFC)

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

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PAOLA MARQUEZ

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Private Sponsor(s):
Innovative Future Collective

Destination(s):
Dublin, Ireland

Travel Dates:
05/05/2026 to 05/07/2026
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.

Policy advisor covering technology and artificial intelligence for Senator Merkley.

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.

4-2-26
Date

Paola Marquez
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 Jeff Merkley
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Paola Marquez
(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.

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[X] (signify "yes" by checking box)

04/02/2026
Date

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Innovative Future Collective: Innovative Future Collective Dublin Educational Trip 2026

PAOLA MARQUEZ

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Dublin, Ireland

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

Policy advisor covering technology and artificial intelligence for Senator Merkley.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Innovative Future Collective

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address 2 (Optional)
Suite 330

Phone Number
6159488550

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

(●) Yes ( ) No

Address
100 M St SE

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

Organization URL
www.innovativefuturecollective.com

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Comments

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This is an educational trip to Dublin, Ireland with one calendar day of programming, to provide an opportunity for staff to learn about current applications and future prospects of AI technology. It will include education about the research, development, and deployment of AI across industries and by startups and larger companies.

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

This trip will bring together AI experts, researchers, developers, and federal policymakers to share knowledge about AI, including future and current uses. It will address the pros and cons associated with AI. The trip will allow for discussion around AI and visualization of the technology and how it is developed.

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
- [x] 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

  In order to maximize the one day of programming, we must begin programming at breakfast time. Due to the long nature of the flight and the flights times offered from the United States to Dublin, Ireland, participants must arrive the night before programming. We have selected a direct flight from Washington, DC to meet this requirement, which minimizes the time on the ground in Dublin, but allows for a night of sleep and early morning programming the following day.

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

- Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
05/04/2026 @ 07:10 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
05/09/2026 @ 03:35 PM

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

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,685.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$1,482.00
Note Round-trip flight from IAD to DUB		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$110.00
Note Minibus for travel on programming day		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$93.00
Note Minibus for transport to/from airport and hotel		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $654.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
05/05/2026	05/07/2026	Maldron Hotel Pearse Street	Dublin		Ireland	2	$327.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $255.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/05/2026	$0.00	$50.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$100.00**	Dublin		Ireland	No
05/06/2026	$0.00	$50.00	$105.00	$0.00	**$155.00**	Dublin		Ireland	No

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

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

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: Innovative Future Collective Educational Trip Dublin 2026

Travel Date(s): May 4, 2026- May 7, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Dublin, Ireland

Sponsor: Innovative Future Collective, Inc.

Ashley Kennedy
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Board Member
(title)

(signature of sponsor representative)

3-17-26
(date)

Invitee List

First Name	Last Name	Office	Title
Caitlyn	Stephenson	Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)	Chief of Staff
Rebecca	Avita	Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Chief of Staff
Brigid	Ueland	Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	Legislative Assistant
Rebecca	Schatz	Seator Adam Schiff (D-CA)	Legislative Director
Brannon	Rains	Senator Todd Young (R-IN)	Policy Adviser
Mark	Wait	Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)	Chief of Staff
Paola	Marquez	Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Policy Adviser
Andy	Downing	Senator Tim Sheehy (R-MT)	Senior Legislative Assistant
Isaiah	Akin	Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Legislative Director
Jasmine	Dimitriou	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Staff Director, Minority
Ryan	Alban	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)	Chief of Staff
Meredith	West	Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Staff Director, Majority
Jed	D'Ercole	Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Deputy Chief of Staff
Kevin	Diamond	Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Legislative Director
Amy	Pfeiffer	Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)	Chief of Staff
Jon	Foltz	Office of the Senate Republican Steering Committee	Executive Director
Graham	Mason	Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)	Legislative Director
Sean	Brebbia	Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee	Chief Counsel, Majority
Angela	Ramponi	Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Legislative Director
Corey	Becker	Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Chief Counsel
Mary	Silverthorn	Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Legislative Director

INNOVATIVE FUTURE COLLECTIVE

AGENDA FOR:
Innovative Future Collective's Staff Delegation Learning Trip to Dublin, Ireland

*All times listed are local to Dublin, Ireland (GMT) unless otherwise indicated

Monday, May 4, 2026

7:10 PM ET	**United Flight #310** *IAD to DUB* **Overnight, land on Tuesday AM*

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:20 AM- 9:00 AM	**Land at Dublin Airport, Customs** *Swords Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X4X5, Ireland*
9:00 AM- 9:45 AM	**Transport to Maldron Hotel Pearse Street** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* *Via Private Charter Bus*
9:45 AM- 10:45 AM	**Hotel Check In** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
10:45 AM- 8:00 PM	**Executive Time for Travellers Before Programming Day**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00 AM- 8:00 AM	**Breakfast and Overview Briefing of Day at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* ***Speaker:*** *Lacy Broemel, Director of Programming and Sponsor Engagement, IFC* **Topic of Discussion:** *Introduce IFC and discuss program day educational goals, expectations, and logistics.*
8:00 AM- 9:15 AM	**Transport to KerryGroup**

Millennium Park, Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland
32 km, 1 hour driving

9:15 AM- 10:30 AM

Visit KerryGroup
Millennium Park, Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Presenter: *Mark Faherty, Senior Director External Affairs*

Topic of Discussion: *Kerry is a world-leading provider of speciality ingredients to the food, beverage, and pharma industries, and Ireland's largest agri-food business, employing over 19,000 people globally, including over 5,000 in North America. In recent years, Kerry has undertaken an ambitious programme of transformation, deploying AI and Digital capabilities to improve how it innovates, serves its customers, and undertakes its operations. Executives and subject matter experts from Kerry Group will engage to share an oversight of what the company does, and how it is leveraging AI and Digital capabilities in its business.*

10:30 AM- 11:30 AM

Transport to Stripe Office
One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland
32 km, 1 hour driving

11:30 AM- 12:30 PM

Visit Stripe Office
One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland

Presenter: *Brian Brady, Dublin Site Lead*

Topic of Discussion: *The visit will include a brief history of Stripe, history of innovation in Ireland, Stripe's role in the Irish ecosystem, and a demo on Stripe's AI tools.*

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch
One Wilton Park, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, D02 FX04, Ireland

Topic of Discussion: *Staff delegation discuss learnings of the trip.*

1:30 PM- 2:00 PM

Transport to AWS StartUp Loft
2 Charlemont St, Saint Kevin's, Dublin, D02 Y978, Ireland
1.9 km, 12 mins driving

2:00 PM- 3:15 PM

Visit AWS StartUp Loft

2 Charlemont St, Saint Kevin's, Dublin, D02 Y978, Ireland

Presenters: *Ed Brophy, Head of Ireland Public Policy; Conor Brennan, Public Policy Manager, Ireland; Ben Connolly, Public Policy*

Topic of Discussion: *The visit will focus on AI adoption among Irish startups and scale-ups, and the broader economic impact of cloud infrastructure investment in the region. AWS will feature a startup customer/partner and an overview of AWS programs designed to help early-stage companies build and scale AI-powered products, including startup support initiatives. Experts will discuss Ireland's emergence as a European hub for AI innovation, the policy environment shaping responsible AI development, and how public-private collaboration can help ensure that the benefits of AI are broadly shared.*

3:15 PM- 3:45 PM **Transport to Leinster House**
Leinster House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 TK75, Ireland
1.9 km, 12 mins driving

3:45 PM- 5:00 PM **Visit with Irish Government Leaders**
Leinster House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 TK75, Ireland

Presenters: *Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on AI, Deputy Malcolm Byrne; Vice Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on AI, Deputy James Geoghan*

Topic of Discussion: *Discussion with Members of Irish Government on AI.*

5:00 PM- 5:30 PM **Transport to Ubotica Offices**
11 Old Finglas Rd, Glasnevin, Dublin, D11 KXN4, Ireland
6.8 km, 30 mins drive

5:30 PM- 6:30 PM **Visit Ubotica Offices**
11 Old Finglas Rd, Glasnevin, Dublin, D11 KXN4, Ireland

Presenters: *Brian Quinn, Chief Strategy Officer*

Topic of Discussion: *The visit will feature demos of Ubotica's AI-powered space satellite technology.*

6:30 PM- 7:00 PM **Transport to Hotel**

	Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland *5.5 km, 20 mins drive*
7:00 PM- 7:15 PM	**Regroup at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
7:15 PM- 7:30 PM	**Transport to Dinner** *41 Westmoreland St, Dublin, D02 VY45, Ireland* *1.6 km, 7 min driving, 16 min walking*
7:30 PM- 9:30 PM	**Dinner at Gloria Osteria Dublin** *41 Westmoreland St, Dublin, D02 VY45, Ireland*
9:30 PM- 9:45 PM	**Transport to Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland* *1.6 km, 7 min driving, 16 min walking*
Thursday, May 7, 2026	
8:30 AM- 9:15 AM	**Breakfast at Hotel** *Pearse St, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 RK37, Ireland*
Saturday, May 9 2026	
12:30 PM- 3:35 PM ET	**United Flight #229** *DUB to IAD*