RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 NOV -9 PM 4:51
Date/Time Stamp

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

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

Private Sponsor(s):
EFI Foundation

Travel Dates:
08/24/2026 to 08/28/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$1,238.98	$408.00	$219.86	$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.

11/6/26
Date

Jennifer Michael
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.

November 06, 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
Meals	$219.86	The meal costs submitted before the trip were estimates based on per diem rates. The final amounts reflect the actual meal costs incurred during the trip.
Lodging	$408.00	Hotel costs changed to reflect the applicable taxes and fees included in the final charges.
Transportation	$1,238.98	Transportation costs changed to account for the shuttle service and the bus driver's hotel accommodations, which we covered. EFI also covered Jennifer's alternative flight costs within a budget provided in advance that was based on, but set below, the retail fare for a ticket to/from Washington, D.C.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

● Yes ○ No

Explanation: The following items were revised: - Lunch on Tuesday was Subway, not Dueling Brews. - Dinner on Tuesday included the following speakers: Speakers: Daniel Scholl - Vice President for Research & Economic Development and Professor, SDSU, Joshua Livermore, Ph.D.,President/CEO, Dakota BioWorx, Stephen Gent, Professor and Director, North Central Regional Sun Grant Center, Mechanical Engineering, SDSU - Dinner on Wednesday included the following speakers: Ernest Moniz, Former U.S. Secretary of Energy and Founder, EFIFoundation; Hunter Roberts, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture - The Low-Carbon Agricultural Practices site visit included the following speakers: Presenter: Kurt and Kathy Stiefvater, owners and 4th generation farmers; Cindy Zenk, Executive Director, SD Soil Health Coalition; James Reedy, P.E., State Conservation Engineer, USDA NRCS South Dakota - The Tri Cross speakers on Thursday included: Frank Yenchick, Director of Operations; Tyler Betz, Operations Manager

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

○ Yes ● No

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

From: Beth Dowdy
To: Michael, Jennifer (Energy)
Cc: Tatiana Bruce da Silva
Subject: Invitation — Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Electricity Infrastructure | August 24–27, 2026
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:40:17 PM
Attachments: EFIF Midwest Itinerary June 4.pdf

Hi Jennifer,

EFI Foundation is pleased to extend a formal invitation to join us for a program in Minnesota and South Dakota this August:

Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Electricity Infrastructure

August 24–27, 2026 | Minneapolis, MN to Sioux Falls, SD

Organized and funded by the EFI Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization

Relevance to Official Duties

The subject matter of this program is directly relevant to congressional staff whose work involves energy, agriculture, and environmental policy. Topics covered across site visits, briefings, and working dinners will include the Renewable Fuel Standard, the 45Z clean fuel production credit, agricultural conservation programs under the farm bill, clean energy tax provisions, and electricity infrastructure — all areas that fall within the legislative jurisdiction of Congress and may be subject to upcoming authorization, appropriations, or oversight activity. EFI Foundation Founder and CEO Ernest J. Moniz will participate throughout the program.

Program Overview

All scheduled time during this program will be devoted to officially connected activity.

I have attached a preliminary itinerary for your reference. All site visits are confirmed; dinner speakers are still being finalized. Please treat this document as confidential and do not share it.

Participants will engage with facility operators, utility executives, state regulators, former federal officials, and regional energy experts at a series of operating facilities in western Minnesota and South Dakota:

- **Xcel Energy Sherco Energy Hub** (Becker, MN): A coal campus in transition to a multi-technology clean energy hub, including large-scale solar, long-duration iron-air battery storage, and a new 170-mile high-voltage transmission line. Discussion will examine how transmission investment and storage enable coal capacity replacement and how workforce transition policy is being implemented in coal-dependent communities.
- **POET Bioprocessing** (Big Stone City, SD and Chancellor, SD): Two corn ethanol biorefineries, including a first-of-kind commercial deployment of Antora Energy's thermal battery technology displacing natural gas in the production process, and a facility whose low carbon intensity score has opened premium export markets largely independent of domestic federal mandates. Discussion will address how carbon

intensity scoring and federal clean fuel provisions are reshaping competitive dynamics for domestic ethanol producers.

- **T&R Electric Supply Co.** (Colman, SD): The nation's largest supplier of remanufactured distribution and power-class transformers. Discussion will address how transformer supply chain constraints — with new-manufacturer lead times now stretching two to three years — are limiting grid expansion and the connection of new generation.
- **Low-Carbon Agricultural Practices** (Turner County, SD): A working corn farm implementing USDA-supported conservation practices, including cover cropping, reduced tillage, and precision nutrient management. Discussion will focus on how federal farm bill programs shape on-farm decision-making and upstream carbon intensity outcomes.
- **Tri-Cross Dairy Renewable Natural Gas Facility** (Viborg, SD): A dairy operation producing approximately one million gallons of pipeline-quality RNG annually. Discussion will examine how livestock methane capture projects are structured and financed, and how negative-carbon fuel pathways from agricultural operations could scale across the region.

Working dinners in Brookings and Sioux Falls will bring together state legislators, regulators, former federal officials, and regional energy and agriculture experts to examine how federal policy is translating into investment decisions and operational outcomes across the Midwest. The program concludes with a structured staff debrief. Approximately one week following the trip, EFI Foundation will convene a follow-on session in Washington, D.C. to synthesize observations with the full group of participating staff.

Logistics

Participants will depart DCA on the afternoon of Monday, August 24, and return to DCA on the evening of Thursday, August 27. All transportation, accommodations, and meals during the program will be provided by EFI Foundation in accordance with federal per diem rates.

Ethics

This trip has been reviewed and cleared through the congressional ethics process. Given those requirements, we ask that you not forward this invitation or recommend a colleague as a substitute participant.

To confirm your participation or ask any questions, please contact me directly at bdowdy@efifoundation.org. We ask that you respond by **June 17, 2026.**

Upon confirmation, we will share access to a private website that will include the full itinerary and a checklist of documents required for the ethics approval process.

We look forward to having you with us.

All the best,

Beth

Beth Dowdy (she/her) | Project Manager
EFI Foundation
900 Seventeenth Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006

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:
JENNIFER MICHAEL

Employing Office/Committee:
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES DEM

Private Sponsor(s):
EFI Foundation

Destination(s):
Minneapolis, Minnesota Brookings, South Dakota Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Travel Dates:
08/24/2026 to 08/27/2026

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.

I cover biofuels, energy markets, transportation and fuels policy for the Committee. The tour will provide valuable opportunities for sight visits, conversations and collecting policy insights for the work that I do on these topics.

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. July. 2026
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)

I

Senator Martin Heinrich
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Jennifer Michael
(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)

07/17/2026
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

EFI Foundation: Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Electricity Infrastructure

Jennifer Michael

Title:
Senior Professional Staff

Employing Office/Committee:
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
DEM

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Brookings, South Dakota
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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

I cover biofuels, energy markets, transportation and fuels policy for the Committee. The tour will provide valuable opportunities for sight visits, conversations and collecting policy insights for the work that I do on these topics.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
EFI Foundation

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

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

Address
900 17th St NW

Address 2 (Optional)

City, State Zip
Washington, District of Columbia 20006 United States

Phone Number
(985) 981-7090

Organization URL
https://efifoundation.org/

History of Congressional Travel

EFI Foundation has not previously sponsored congressional travel.

Educational Activities

The EFI Foundation conducts independent research and analysis on energy issues. Drawing on that research and related educational materials, the EFI Foundation convenes policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, community representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss energy challenges and opportunities. Educational activities include bootcamps on topics such as low-carbon fuels, energy finance, and "Speed to Power," as well as briefings, workshops, roundtables, conference presentations, and public discussions.

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.

Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Electricity Infrastructure is an educational fact-finding program that will provide participants with firsthand exposure to energy production, fuel manufacturing, electricity generation, transmission infrastructure, and emerging energy technologies. The program will combine site visits, expert presentations, and educational discussions to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of energy infrastructure and technology deployment. The program is designed to help participants understand the implications of federal policies and the opportunities and challenges implementing those policies across the energy sector. Through visits to operating facilities and discussions with facility operators, technical experts, and local stakeholders, participants will learn about the technologies, operations, workforce needs, economic impacts, and policy considerations associated with developing and deploying Midwest energy projects.

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

The trip directly supports the EFI Foundation's mission to advance understanding of the technologies, infrastructure, and policy options needed to support a low-carbon energy future. Consistent with the Foundation's work analyzing pathways to deploy energy and climate solutions, the program provides participants with firsthand exposure to energy facilities, infrastructure, and operational practices that are central to the nation's energy transition. By connecting participants with technical experts, facility operators, and local stakeholders, the trip complements the Foundation's research, thought leadership, educational programming, and stakeholder convenings. The program is designed to improve understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with deploying clean fuels and electricity infrastructure and to support informed, evidence-based decision-making on energy and climate issues. The experience also strengthens participants' understanding of energy technologies.

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

- [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

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

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

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

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

Invitees

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/24/2026 @ 08:40 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/27/2026 @ 09:20 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: $1,203.13 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$933.93

Note
Round trip flight. Aug 24: - PDX-DEN-MSP (UA3375, UA732) Aug 27: FSD-ORD-IAD (UA4428, UA2202)

Ground Transportation	Coach	$269.20

Note
Private bus for group to travel to and from destinations together. $269.20 per person for the whole trip.

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $368.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/24/2026	08/25/2026	Hyatt Centric Downtown Minneapolis	Minneapolis	Minnesota	United States	1	$148.00	No
08/25/2026	08/26/2026	Comfort Suites University	Brookings	South Dakota	United States	1	$110.00	No
08/26/2026	08/27/2026	Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Sioux Falls	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	United States	1	$110.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $242.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/24/2026	$0.00	$0.00	$38.00	$0.00	**$38.00**	Minneapolis	Minnesota	United States	No
08/25/2026	$16.00	$19.00	$28.00	$5.00	**$68.00**	Brookings	South Dakota	United States	No
08/26/2026	$16.00	$19.00	$28.00	$5.00	**$68.00**	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	United States	No

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/27/2026	$16.00	$19.00	$28.00	$5.00	**$68.00**	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	United States	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: Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Elec

Travel Date(s): August 24 27, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Minnesota and South Dakota

Sponsor: EFI Foundation

Madeline Schomburg
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Vice President
(title)

Madeline Schomburg
(signature of sponsor representative)

6/26/26
(date)

First Name	Last Name	Position	Office	Why invite
Hannah	Albert	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Patty Murphy	Washington office representing a state with major clean fuels, hydropower, and clean energy interests.
Noah	An	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Patty Murphy	Washington office representing a state with major clean fuels, hydropower, and clean energy interests.
Sydney	Beasley	Senior Policy Advisor	Senate Finance Committee and Office of Senator Ron Wyden, OR	Senate Finance Committee tax and energy portfolio (OR)
Grace	Bellone	Policy Advisor	Senate EPW	Senate EPW staff
Ashlynne	Beninga	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator John Thune	SD relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Nate	Bentham	Policy Advisor	Senator Padilla	California LCFS state; energy and climate relevance
Prerna	Bhat	Climate and Environment Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Cory Booker	Climate and environment portfolio
Sarah	Bittleman	Deputy Chief of Staff/Policy Director	Office of Ron Wyden	Senate Finance leadership office with jurisdiction over clean energy and biofuel tax policy.
Jonathan	Black	Sr Policy Advisor	Senator Ben Ray Lujan, NM	New Mexico energy office
Ryan	Blake	Legislative Correspondent	Sen. Duckworth	Illinois senator from major biofuels state
Maggie	Blomgren	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Tina Smith (MN)	Topic relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Mikayla	Bodey	Policy Director	Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Senate Agriculture Committee staff
Patrick	Bond	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Angus King	Energy and infrastructure-focused Senate office
Susanne	Brookes	Legislative Director	Office of Senator Michael Bennett	Colorado office with strong interests in western energy, public lands, and climate policy.

Julien	Caubel	Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Mark Kelly	Arizona office focused on energy, manufacturing, infrastructure, and critical minerals.
Kyle	Chapman	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto	Nevada office engaged on transmission, geothermal, mining, and western energy issues.
Leo	Confalone	Legislative Correspondent	Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen	Maryland office with energy and environmental policy engagement
Sarah	Cox	Legislative Correspondent	Office of Senator John Thune	SD relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Anna	Cullen	LD	John Ossoff	Georgia agriculture and energy manufacturing state
Jake	Curdy	Policy Director	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee leadership staff
Justin	Duca	Staff Assistant / Legislative Correspondent	Office of Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester	Delaware office engaged on clean energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure.
Dan	Dudis	Staff Director	Sen Whitehouse	Senate climate and environment leadership office
Sam	Dunford	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks	Iowa biofuels state
Patrick	Eckroth	Appropriations Director	Office of Senator Maria Cantwell	Senior appropriations staff overseeing federal energy, infrastructure, and DOE funding priorities.
Jacob	Egler	Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources	Office of Ron Wyden	Senate natural resources advisor covering energy, public lands, transmission, and permitting policy.
Sierra	Fuller	Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Jacky Rosen	Nevada office active on grid modernization, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.

Alexandria	Gilliand	Policy Advisor for Clean Air and Climate	Office of Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE), EPW	Topic relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Hannah	Griggs	AAAS/APS Congressional Science Fellow	Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)	California energy and environment portfolio
Chrissy	Harbin	Director of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships	Office of Senator Alan Armstrong	North Dakota energy-producing state office
Claire	Hardy	Legislative Aide	Senator Jim Risch	Idaho office; limited identifiable energy nexus
Michael	Harris	Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Adam Schiff	California office engaged on clean energy, transportation, and industrial decarbonization.
Ethan	Hinch	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Bernie Sanders	Senate office active on climate, clean energy, and environmental policy.
Cydney	Karlins	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Raphael Warnock	Georgia office representing a major clean-energy manufacturing and biofuels state.
Wesley	King	Legislative Assistant	Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Senate energy office (NM)
Carmen	Leal Ramirez	Legislative Assistant	OFfice of Senator Angela Alsobrooks	Maryland office active on climate, infrastructure, and environmental policy.
Mitchell	Lee	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	New York office engaged on infrastructure, clean energy, and manufacturing policy.
Zach	Lewis	Defense and Intelligence Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Mark Warner	Virginia office engaged on energy security, grid resilience, and critical infrastructure.
Thomas	Liepold	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar	Minnesota biofuels state
Shane	Londagin	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Senator John Hickenlooper	Colorado energy and climate office

Elizabeth	Mabry	Legislative Director	OFfice of Senator Angela Alsobrooks	Maryland office active on climate, infrastructure, and environmental policy.
Mary-Eileen	Manning	Projects Advisor	Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (AK)	Alaska energy and natural resources office
Jenna	Mayhew	Legislative Aide	Office of Senator Chris Coons	Delaware office with energy and climate engagement
Jennifer	Michael	Sr. Professional Staffer	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff
Liz	Natonski	Advisor	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Topic relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Lizzy	Olsen	Counsel	Sen. Duckworth	Illinois senator from major biofuels state
Janet	Reyna	Congressional Fellow	Senate Energy and Natura	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff
Nathan	Robinson	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester	Delaware office engaged on clean energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure.
Timothy	Ryder	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Chuck Schumer	Senate leadership office engaged on clean energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, and innovation.
Alex	Sabater	Professional Staff Member	Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI)	Senate Intelligence Committee staff; limited identifiable energy nexus
Sarah	Sandgren	Senior Outreach Director	Office of Senator Tina Smith	SD relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer
Ben	Schreiber	Director of Energy and Climate	Office of Senator Merkley	Senate energy and climate leadership office (OR)
Claire	Wang	Energy Policy Advisor	Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Works with the committee ranking member, Sheldon Whitehouse, RI	Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff
Adam	Wek	Legislative Director	Office of Senator John Thune	SD relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer

John Henry	Woods	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Katie Boyd Britt	Alabama office; limited identifiable energy nexus
Anna	Yelverton	Climate and Environment Policy Advisor	Office of Senator Brian Schatz	Senate climate and environment leadership office
Matt	Yetter	Legislative Assistant	Office of Senator Mike Rounds	SD relevance, energy/climate/ag staffer

Energy in Practice: A Midwest Tour of Clean Fuels and Electricity Infrastructure

With financial support from unrestricted funding for the EFI Foundation, 501(c)(3)

South Dakota and Minnesota

August 24-27, 2026

MISSION GOALS: The goal of this trip is to connect congressional staff with the realities of clean energy deployment across industrial supply chains in the Midwest. EFI Foundation will facilitate site visits to ethanol biorefineries, corn farms, a dairy-based renewable natural gas facility, and electricity infrastructure in Minnesota and South Dakota, examining how policy incentives shape real-world operational decisions across agriculture, fuels, and power systems.

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES: The subject matter of this trip is directly relevant to congressional staff whose work involves energy, agriculture, and environmental policy. Topics of discussion will include, but are not limited to, the Renewable Fuel Standard, clean fuel standards, agricultural conservation programs, clean energy tax provisions, and electricity transmission infrastructure — all areas that fall within the legislative jurisdiction of Congress and may be subject to upcoming authorization, appropriations, or oversight activity.

LOCATION: The purpose of travel to Minnesota and South Dakota is to attend site visits and stakeholder meetings across the eastern region of the state. EFI Foundation will take participants to facilities in Western Minnesota, the Sioux Falls area, Turner County, and northeastern South Dakota.

ITINERARY

FLIGHT INFORMATION

The EFI Foundation will cover the cost of all air travel for trip participants, including the group American Airlines booking that will include most participants. For those traveling from or to destinations outside of Washington, D.C., individual flight itineraries have been arranged.

Group Flight — American Airlines

Leg	Flight	Route	Date	Departs	Arrives
Outbound (Leg 1)	UA3375	PDX → DEN	Aug 24	8:40 a.m. PDT	12:19 p.m. MDT
Outbound (Leg 2)	UA732	DEN → MSP	Aug 24	1:46 p.m. MDT	4:48 p.m. CDT
Return (Leg 1)	UA4428	FSD → ORD	Aug 27	3:06 p.m. CDT	5:05 p.m. CDT
Return (Leg 2)	UA2202	ORD → IAD	Aug 27	6:15 p.m. CDT	9:20 p.m. EDT

MONDAY, AUGUST 24: TRAVEL

City Washington, DC → Minneapolis, MN

Hotel Hyatt Centric Downtown Minneapolis
615 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Emergency contact Tatiana Bruce da Silva

Schedule

8:40 AM PDT	Flight UA3375 scheduled to depart from PDX en route to DEN. Meet at gate before boarding.
12:19 PM MDT	Arrive at DEN.
1:46 PM MDT	Depart DEN to MSP.
4:48 PM CDT	*Arrive at MSP (Minneapolis—St. Paul Regional Airport)* *Take Uber to hotel, to be later reimbursed by EFIF*
5:05 PM	*Check into Hyatt Centric Downtown Minneapolis*
~7:30 PM	*We are offering an informal dinner at the hotel after everyone gets settled, which is not mandatory/part of programming but is still open to all. If you*

would prefer to dine separately, reimbursement is available up to the official per diem rate ($38). Please note that reimbursement requires submitting a W9.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25: ETHANOL & RURAL ELECTRIC (NORTHERN LOOP)

City	Minneapolis, MN → Brookings, SD
Sites	*Xcel Energy Sherco Energy Hub* 14300 Sherco Dr Becker, MN 55308 *POET Bioprocessing – Big Stone City* 48416 144th St Big Stone City, SD 57216
Hotel	Comfort Suites University 929 25th Avenue Brookings, SD 57006
Emergency contact	Tatiana Bruce da Silva

Schedule
All times in CDT

6:30 AM	*Hyatt's on-site SIX15 Bar and Restaurant opens.* *Complimentary breakfast will be available for all bootcamp participants.*
7:00 AM	*Bring luggage to lobby.*
7:15 AM – 8:30 AM	**Pre-Trip Site Briefing** *Board motorcoach and drive to Xcel's Sherco Energy Hub (~1 hour).* EFI Foundation staff will provide an overview of the facilities to be visited during the trip, key policy issues associated with clean fuels and electricity infrastructure, and a framework for evaluating the operational, economic, workforce, and regulatory considerations discussed throughout the program. Participants will discuss questions and policy topics they intend to examine during site visits.
8:30 – 10:00 AM	**Site Visit: Xcel Energy Sherco Energy Hub – Becker, MN** Participants will tour Xcel Energy's Sherburne County Generating Station (Sherco) campus as the site transitions from one of the Midwest's largest

coal facilities to a multi-technology clean energy hub. Three coal units totaling approximately 2,400 MW are being retired on a phased schedule (Unit 2 retired December 2023; Units 1 and 3 retiring 2026 and 2030), with replacement capacity that includes 710 MW of solar across three project phases — the largest solar development in the Upper Midwest — a 10 MW / 1,000 MWh Form Energy iron-air long-duration battery storage system, 300–600 MW of short-duration battery storage, and a new 170-mile high-voltage transmission line.

Discussion will examine how transmission investment and long-duration storage are enabling the practical replacement of coal capacity, and how the site's worker transition plan — including a no-layoff pledge for existing employees — addresses workforce policy challenges in coal-dependent communities.

Presenter: Brian Behm, Senior Director; Jamie Smith, Business Process Specialist; Trystin Artiga, Manager, Renewable Operations; Luke Molus, Senior Manager, Operations; Michelle Schmitz, Manager, Operations

10:15 AM — *Pick up lunch from Dueling Brews*

10:30 AM — *Drive ~2.5 hours to Big Stone. Eat lunch on the bus.*

1:30 – 3:30 PM — **Tour and Briefing: POET Bioprocessing – Big Stone City**

Participants will tour POET's 105-million-gallon-per-year corn ethanol biorefinery and receive a briefing on the facility's integration with Otter Tail Power and Antora Energy's thermal battery technology. Antora's system uses electricity to heat solid carbon blocks, storing energy as heat that generates steam piped directly into POET's ethanol production process — displacing the natural gas that would otherwise provide that process heat. Discussion will examine what it takes to deploy first-of-kind clean energy technology at commercial industrial scale — including how private capital, utility partnerships, and carbon market incentives aligned to make this project viable without a direct federal mandate driving the investment.

Presenters: Blaine Gomer, General Manager, POET Bioprocessing – Big Stone City

3:30 – 5:30 PM — *Drive ~2 hours to hotel*

5:30 PM — *Check into Comfort Suites University.*

6:45 PM — *Meet in the lobby and drive to Good Roots Farm.*

7:00 – 9:00 PM — **Working Dinner: Low-Carbon Energy Technology, Local Investment & State Policy (Brookings)**

This dinner will examine the role of state universities and research institutions in bridging the gap between laboratory innovation and commercial-scale deployment, and what that pipeline means for local economic development — exploring how academic research partnerships, industry collaboration, and regional investment are turning emerging clean energy technologies into operating facilities and jobs.

Speakers:

1. **Joshua Livermore, Ph.D.**
   - President/CEO, Dakota BioWorx: https://www.dakotabioworx.org/teams
   - Focus on translating scientific innovation into commercial-scale technologies — with direct experience leading strategy, bioprocess development, and commercialization at Formo, where he helped transform precision fermentation IP into manufacturing-ready platforms through cross-functional leadership spanning R&D, scale-up, and regulatory strategy.
   - Strongest operating lead tied to technology commercialization, industrial scale-up, and strategic evaluation of emerging technologies.
2. **Stephen Gent**
   - Professor and Director, North Central Regional Sun Grant Center, Mechanical Engineering, SDSU
   - Focus on how federally funded university research programs translate into regional energy and agricultural innovation, with direct experience leading the Sun Grant initiative, which connects land-grant universities across the region to advance bioenergy and bioproducts research from the lab to commercial application.
   - Strong academic voice on the research-to-market pipeline and the role of federal investment in sustaining regional innovation ecosystems.

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26: GRID INFRASTRUCTURE, ETHANOL, AND AGRICULTURE (SOUTHEAST SD)

City	Brookings, SD → Sioux Falls, SD
Sites	*T&R Electric Supply Co., Inc. -- Colman* 308 SW 3rd St Colman, SD 57017 *POET Bioprocessing -- Chancellor*

27716 462nd Ave
Chancellor, SD 57015

Kurt Stiefvater's Farm
25108 445th Avenue
Salem, SD 57058

Hotel Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Sioux Falls
200 E 8th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Emergency contact Tatiana Bruce da Silva

Schedule
All times in CDT

6:00 AM *Hotel complimentary breakfast opens.*

8:00 AM *Bring luggage to lobby, board, and leave for T&R Electric.*

9:00 – 10:30 AM **Site Visit: T&R Electric Supply Co., Inc. – Colman**

Participants will tour T&R Electric Supply Co., Inc., the nation's largest supplier of remanufactured distribution and power-class transformers, operating a 61-acre campus with 221,000 square feet of manufacturing space and an inventory of 42,000 units. Discussion will focus on the critical role of transformer availability in grid expansion — including the connection of new wind generation and large industrial loads such as ethanol biorefineries — and how post-COVID supply chain disruptions, with new-manufacturer lead times now stretching two to three years, are straining utilities' ability to grow and maintain the grid.

Presenter: Ryan Schneider, Chief Electrical Engineer; Keaton Westover, VP of Sales/Executive Management; Shane Roth, VP of Operations/Executive Management

10:30 AM *Drive ~1 hour to Chancellor, SD.*

11:30 – 2:00 PM **Tour and Working Lunch: POET Bioprocessing – Chancellor**

Participants will tour POET's 125-million-gallon-per-year corn ethanol biorefinery and receive a briefing on facility operations, feedstock sourcing, energy inputs, and carbon intensity reduction efforts. Discussion will focus on how carbon intensity scoring is reshaping competitive positioning for ethanol producers — including how Chancellor's low CI profile has opened premium export markets on the West Coast and in Canada that are largely independent of domestic federal mandates. A working lunch will be served on-site.

Presenter: Terry Hurlbert, General Manager, POET Bioprocessing – Chancellor

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

2:15 – 3:15 PM *Drive to Kurt Stiefvater's Farm.*

3:15 – 4:45 PM **Low-Carbon Agricultural Practices Site Visit – Salem**

Participants will visit a local farm implementing USDA-supported conservation practices — including cover cropping and no-till — that lower the carbon intensity of ethanol feedstocks. The farm has ~1,800 acres of corn, soybeans, oats, and sorghum and ~125 heads of cattle. Stiefvater won ASA's 2025 Conservation Legacy Award, and the farm has been featured in soil health research.

Presenter: Kurt Stiefvater, owner and 4th generation farmer; Cindy Zenk, Executive Director, SD Soil Health Coalition; James Reedy, P.E., State Conservation Engineer, USDA NRCS South Dakota

5:00 PM *Drive back to Sioux Falls (~1 hour).*

6:00 PM *Check into Country Inn & Suites.*

7:15 PM *Meet in the lobby to walk to Chef Lance's on Phillips for dinner.*

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Working Dinner: Energy, Agriculture & the Federal Policy Landscape (Sioux Falls)**

This dinner will bring together former federal officials, state leadership, and regional energy and decarbonization experts to examine how federal energy policy is landing in the Midwest — and what state and regional actors need from Washington to sustain clean energy momentum across agriculture, fuels, and the grid.

Speakers:

1. **Ernest Moniz**
   - Former U.S. Secretary of Energy and Founder, EFI Foundation Focus on the federal policy landscape for industrial decarbonization, clean fuels, and energy security — and how the tools Congress has available compare to what the private sector and states are actually deploying.
2. **Hunter Roberts**
   - South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture: https://governor.sd.gov/office/cabinet.aspx
   - Focus on how South Dakota's agricultural sector is engaging with clean fuel markets, conservation programs, and the federal policy signals that shape on-farm decision-making, and what the state needs from Congress to keep producers competitive.

3. **Louise Miltich, Executive Vice President, Great Plains Institute**
   - Prior to joining GPI, Louise served as Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Analysis at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, where she oversaw the Department's work with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on regulatory issues.

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS, DEBRIEFING, AND TRAVEL

City	Sioux Falls, SD → Washington, DC
Sites	*Tri-Cross Dairy Renewable Natural Gas Facility – Viborg* 45144 289th Street Viborg, SD 57070
Emergency contact	Tatiana Bruce da Silva

Schedule
All times in CDT, unless otherwise specified

6:00 AM	*Hotel complimentary breakfast opens, grab and go options available.*
6:50 AM	*Bring luggage to lobby and board bus.*
7:00 – 8:30 AM	*Drive ~1 hour south to Viborg, SD.*
8:30 – 10:30 AM	**Site Visit: Tri-Cross Dairy Renewable Natural Gas Facility – Viborg** Participants will tour Clean Energy Fuels Corp.'s RNG production facility at Tri-Cross Dairy, a 5,000-cow dairy operation that produces approximately one million gallons of pipeline-quality renewable natural gas annually. Discussion will examine how dairy methane capture fits into the broader landscape of agricultural carbon programs — how RNG projects are structured and financed, what they mean for farm economics, and how negative-carbon fuel pathways from livestock operations could scale across the region. **Presenters:** Will Flanagan, Vice President of Strategic Development

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	**Congressional Staff Debrief and Working Lunch** *Drive to Sioux Falls Regional Airport (FSD) (~1 hour).* During transit, EFI Foundation staff will facilitate a structured policy synthesis session designed to integrate lessons from the site visits and discussions conducted throughout the program. Participants will compare observations across electricity infrastructure, ethanol production, renewable natural gas, and agricultural conservation practices; examine common themes related to technology deployment, infrastructure needs, workforce development, and market incentives; congressional responsibilities involving energy, agriculture, environmental, tax, and infrastructure policy. The entirety of the allotted time will be spent covering officially connected activity. **Participants:** Congressional staff; EFI Foundation staff
11:30 AM	*Arrive at FSD. Grab lunch.*
3:06 PM	*Depart FSD on flight UA4428 to Chicago (ORD)*
5:05 PM	*Arrive at ORD*
6:15 PM	*Depart ORD on flight UA2202 to IAD*
9:20 PM EDT	*Arrive at IAD, end of trip*