

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

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

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

Private Sponsor(s):**Travel Dates:**

The Third Way Foundation (Progressive)

Wednesday March 11 - Sunday March

Name of accompanying family member (if any):**Relationship to Traveler:**

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$449.00	\$379.00	\$171.00	

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.

3/16/2025

Perna Bhat

Date

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.

4/15/26

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

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation:

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation:

Organization Information

Organization Name *

Progressive Policy Institute

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Address *

1919 M ST NW

Address 2 (Optional)

SUITE 300

Country *

United States

City *

Washington

State *

District Of Columbia

Zip Code *

20036

Phone Number *

3479492741

Organization URL (Optional)

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel. *

The Progressive Policy Institute has sponsored several Congressional staff and member delegations since its founding in 1989. These educational trips have focused on a wide variety of policy areas and they aim to explore how issues moving on Capitol Hill have an impact on the real world. PPI last sponsored Senate travel in May 2025.

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Address 2 (Optional)

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20036

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+1 3479492741

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Educational Activities

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

As a non profit 501 (c)(3) think tank, the nature of PPI's work is educational. We release dozens of reports, research, and policy analysis work annually. PPI also hosts public forums, congressional briefings, webinars, roundtables, and other events around issue education.

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.

☐ I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status *

☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.

☐ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

☒ 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 (Optional)

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.*

Congressional staff will meet with local officials, industry representatives, academics with insight on innovative electronic and advanced plastic waste recycling technologies..

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

PPI has been conducting congressional trips on policy work to learn more about pressing policy issues. The mission of this trip is aligned with PPI's energy and environmental policy projects and our committed to advance pragmatic, forward looking solutions to address electronic and plastic waste.

is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

Organization Name

Certification Form

Search

▲ No data available

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized...*

☐ Without regard to congressional participation:

☒ 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

Both certifications are required...*

☒ 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 the following, if...*

A. 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.

 [Edit Travel Dates](#)

Trip Start Date/Time
03/11/2026 @ 1:04 PM

Trip End Date/Time
03/13/2026 @ 5:05 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?
No

[View Itinerary](#)

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Traveler Type	Transportation Type	Class	Amount	Notes
Member/Officer/Employee	Airfare	Coach	\$449.00	roundtrip
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Traveler Type	Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
Member/Officer/Employee	03/11/26	03/12/26	Hilton Garden Inn	Austin	Texas	United States	1	\$156.00	No
Member/Officer/Employee	03/12/26	03/13/26	Sam Houston Hotel Tapestry	Houston	Texas	United States	1	\$223.00	No

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Traveler Type	Date	City	State	Country	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
Member/Officer/Employee	03/11/26	Austin	Texas	United States	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	No
Member/Officer/Employee	03/12/26	Houston	Texas	United States	\$23.00	\$26.00	\$37.00	\$0.00	\$86.00	No
Member/Officer/Employee	03/13/26	Houston	Texas	United States	\$23.00	\$26.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49.00	No
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1156 15th Street NW, Ste 400
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-525-3926
Fax: 202-525-3941
info@ppionline.org

Congressional Staff Delegation to Austin, Houston and Baytown, TX

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – Friday, March 13, 2026

Wednesday, March 11

1:05 - 3:58 PM

Flight to Austin, TX
United 2746 IAD-AUS,
(non-stop)

4:30 PM

Travel to Hilton Garden Inn hotel - Taxi/rideshare

5:00 PM

Drop bags and check-in

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Welcome Dinner and Trip Briefing with PPI Team
Location: Ranch 616, 616 Nueces St, Austin, TX 78701

Overview of PPI trip and policy discussion led by Neel Brown, Managing Director at PPI

Thursday, March 12

8:00 - 8:45 AM

Breakfast in hotel

8:45 - 9:30 AM

Travel to Material Recovery Lab Presentation - Bus

9:30 - 10:30 AM

E-Waste Material Recovery Lab: Pre-Tour Presentation
6800 W Parmer Ln, Austin, TX 78729

Staff will receive a presentation at Apple's Austin campus prior to embarking on a tour of their Material Recovery Lab. Company representatives will provide the presentation on e-waste issues and technology recycling innovation.

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Travel to Material Recovery Lab Tour - Bus

10:45 - 11:45 AM

E-Waste Material Recovery Lab Guided Tour
30.431646, -97.755947 (North Austin)

Staff will embark on a guided tour of the Material Recovery Lab, which will include a "meeting" with Apple's Daisy, a state-of-the-art recycling robot that disassembles and recycles parts from discarded smartphones.



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12:30 - 1:45 PM Lunch with City of Austin Officials

Location: TBD

Discussion with City of Austin officials on the City's energy and recycling policy initiatives.

2:00 - 2:30 PM Travel to AUS - Bus

4:23 - 5:29 PM Flight to Houston, TX

United 686, AUS - IAH
(non-stop)

6:00 - 6:40 PM Travel to Hilton Tapestry Collection - rideshare/taxi

7:00 - 9:00 PM Dinner in Houston with Recycling Policy Experts

Location: The Pearl Restaurant and Bar

A discussion on advanced recycling technology and public policy with experts from academia, nonprofits, and industry leaders.

Friday, March 13

9:00 - 9:45 AM Breakfast in hotel

9:45 - 10:15 AM Travel to Baytown, TX - bus

10:30 - 2:00 PM Guided Tour of Baytown Collection, Sorting, Advanced Recycling Facilities

Location: 5000 Bayway Dr., Baytown, Texas 77520

Staff will embark on a guided tour of three key facilities in the advanced recycling process. Tour will also feature a lunch discussion with industry experts and opportunity for Q&A

Travel to airport - bus

4:55 - 8:56 PM Flight to Washington D.C

United 462, IAH-DCA
(non-stop)



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Washington, DC 20036
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February 2, 2026

Prerna Bhat
Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker
SH-306 Senate Hart Office Building

Dear Prerna,

On behalf of PPI, we'd like to invite you to join our congressional staff delegation to Austin, Houston, and Baytown, Texas, from March 11–13 to explore innovative electronic and advanced plastic waste recycling technologies.

For over a decade, PPI has organized congressional trips with elected officials and staff to learn more about pressing policy issues. In that spirit, this trip to Texas will bring together a group of bipartisan congressional staff who are committed to advancing pragmatic, forward-looking solutions to address electronic and plastic waste.

Both electronic and plastic waste represent a rapidly escalating problem for policymakers. Roughly 91 percent of plastic waste worldwide is not recycled, with U.S. recycling rates even lower, resulting in nearly 30 million tons of plastic sent to landfills each year. At the same time, electronic waste is growing at an alarming pace. In the United States alone, an estimated 150 million phones are discarded annually, with only a small fraction being properly recycled.

Our trip will showcase two examples of new technologies currently being deployed to address these challenges. In Austin, we will tour an e-waste recycling facility which features “Daisy,” a robotic system that disassembles cell phones to recover materials for reuse. We will then travel to Houston and visit several facilities utilizing advanced technologies to collect, sort, and recycle plastics in nearby Baytown. Along the way, we will also meet with local officials, industry representatives, academics, and other policy experts with insight on these issues.

PPI is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming on current policy issues. As such, this trip will comply with House and Senate ethics rules.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, February 6, 2026. Space is limited; please contact John Michael Dieng at 347-949-2741 and jdieng@ppionline.org if you have questions or require further information.

We hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Neel Brown
Managing Director, PPI

Stu Malec
VP of Public Affairs, PPI