RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
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PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 JUN 26 PM 3:06

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):
Megafire Institute, Safewoods

Travel Dates:
05/27/2026 to 05/30/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$1,100.00	$600.00	$340.00	$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.

6/26/26
Date

NATHAN BENTHAM
Printed Name of Traveler

Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6/26/26
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
There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.		

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ● No

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

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

○ Yes ● No

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

Date: 2 Feb, 2026
To: Nate Bentham <Nate_Bentham@padilla.senate.gov>
From: Teresa Feo <teresa@megafireinstitute.org>
Subject: Invitation to Safewoods Wildfire Mitigation Trip May 27-29

Nate,

On behalf of Safewoods, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational wildfire mitigation experiences, I would like to invite you to attend a fact-finding trip to the Bitterroot Forest in Montana to learn about wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive wildfire. The full-day trip is scheduled for Thursday May 28th, with May 27th and 29th reserved for travel between DC and Darby, MT. The trip is sponsored by the Megafire Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to translating scientific insights and expert knowledge into actionable policy solutions to promote fire-resilient landscapes and communities. Funding is provided by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Against the backdrop of the beautiful Bitterroot National Forest, attendees will gain firsthand experience with wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive megafire. Participants will learn from subject matter experts about federal wildfire resilience and mitigation projects underway in Montana and across the West to effectively reduce wildfire risk across natural lands and the built environment along with the many additional co-benefits of improving wildfire resilience. Attendees will participate in informative discussions with wildfire mitigation experts and a hands-on fuels reduction treatment activity to gain first-hand experience of the start-to-finish process of effectively reducing wildfire risk. Travel arrangements, two nights of lodging, and all meals will be provided by the Safewoods Retreat located outside of Darby, MT.

Space is limited, please reply all to this email to indicate your interest. We hope you can join us for this exciting trip.

Sincerely,

Teresa Feo
Research Director, Megafire Institute

0000000007365 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: June 26, 2026

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp
4/27/26

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
NATHAN BENTHAM

Employing Office/Committee:
PADILLA, ALEX

Private Sponsor(s):
Megafire Institute, Safewoods

Destination(s):
Darby, Montana

Travel Dates:
05/27/2026 to 05/30/2026
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.

Set in the Bitterroot National Forest, I will gain firsthand experience with wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive megafire. I will be able to interface with subject matter experts about federal wildfire resilience and mitigation projects underway in Montana and across the West to effectively reduce wildfire risk across natural lands and the built environment along with the many additional co-benefits of improving wildfire resilience. There will be hands-on fuels reduction treatment activity to gain first-hand experience of the start-to-finish process of effectively reducing wildfire risk.

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.

4/27/26
Date

Nathan Bentham
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 Alex Padilla
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Nathan Bentham
(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

4/27/26
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Megafire Institute: 2026 Safewoods Wildfire Mitigation Experience

NATHAN BENTHAM

Title:
Policy Advisor

Employing Office/Committee:
PADILLA, ALEX

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Darby, Montana

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

Set in the Bitterroot National Forest, I will gain firsthand experience with wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive megafire. I will be able to interface with subject matter experts about federal wildfire resilience and mitigation projects underway in Montana and across the West to effectively reduce wildfire risk across natural lands and the built environment along with the many additional co-benefits of improving wildfire resilience. There will be hands-on fuels reduction treatment activity to gain first-hand experience of the start-to-finish process of effectively reducing wildfire risk.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Megafire Institute

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address 2 (Optional)

Phone Number
(510) 684-8707

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

○ Yes ● No

Address
22515 Blueridge Court

City, State Zip
Calabasas, California 91302 United States

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

This is the second time Megafire Institute has hosted congressional travel. In June of 2025, Megafire Institute cohosted a trip with lead sponsor Safewoods and funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The trip was a wildfire mitigation experience in Darby, Montana for a bipartisan group of congressional staffers working on wildfire issues.

Educational Activities

We engage scientists, experts, and practitioners working across all phases of the fire cycle to craft effective policy recommendations that allow ecosystems and communities to thrive with wildland fire.

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.

Attendees will gain firsthand experience with wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive megafire. Participants will learn from subject matter experts about projects underway in Montana and across the West to effectively reduce wildfire risk across natural lands and the built environment and the many co-benefits of improving wildfire resilience. Attendees will participate in a hands-on fuels reduction treatment activity and tour local sites that are in differing stages of the mitigation pipeline to gain first-hand experience of the start-to-finish process of effectively reducing wildfire risk.

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

Megafire Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to translating scientific insights and expert knowledge to promote fire-resilience in natural lands and the built environment. The purpose of this trip is to teach participants – through hands-on activities and discussions with experts – about the different wildfire mitigation practices that work in concert to reduce risk to society and ecosystems. Both Megafire Institute and Safewoods are dedicated to promoting fire-resilience in natural lands.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

○ Yes ● No

Describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

Megafire Institute took the lead role in organizing and conducting the trip. Safewoods provided campsite facilities and coordination of the hands-on treatment activity. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided funds to support the trip through a grant awarded to Megafire Institute.

Joint Sponsor: Safewoods

Organization Information

Organization Name
Safewoods

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address 2 (Optional)
PMB 70143

Phone Number
(610) 256-3489

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

○ Yes ● No

Address
9450 SW Gemini Drive

City, State Zip
Beaverton, Oregon 97008 United States

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

last year we hosted a group of congressional staffers in Darby, MT to learn about fuel mitigation and forest management work.

Educational Activities

We help educate attendees on the importance of fuel mitigation and forest management work.

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.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

1. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

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

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:
05/27/2026 @ 07:00 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
05/29/2026 @ 11:59 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: $1,100.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$600.00

Note
Roundtrip coach airfare between Washington DC and Missoula Montana

Ground Transportation	N/A	$500.00

Note
Vans for transportation between Safewoods camp, airport, and site visit locations

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $600.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
05/27/2026	05/29/2026	Safewoods Camp	Darby	Montana	United States	2	$300.00	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason
Expenses exceed per diem due to the remote location of the Safewoods camp. The lodging estimate includes the total cost of setting up a temporary campsite of tents and the rental of portable toilet facilities divided by the total participants.

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $340.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/27/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$95.00	$0.00	**$135.00**	Darby	Montana	United States	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason
Costs for meals exceed federal per diem while attendees are at Safewoods due to the remote location and the lack of permanent kitchen facilities or electricity at the Safewoods camp. The costs listed here represent the total cost of setting up temporary facilities for on site food preparation divided by the number of participants on the trip.

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/28/2026	$35.00	$40.00	$95.00	$0.00	**$170.00**	Darby	Montana	United States	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason
Costs for meals exceed federal per diem while attendees are at Safewoods due to the remote location and the lack of permanent kitchen facilities or electricity at the Safewoods camp. The costs listed here represent the total cost of setting up temporary facilities for on site food preparation divided by the number of participants on the trip.

05/29/2026	$35.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$35.00**	Darby	Montana	United States	Yes

Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason
Costs for meals exceed federal per diem while attendees are at Safewoods due to the remote location and the lack of permanent kitchen facilities or electricity at the Safewoods camp. The costs listed here represent the total cost of setting up temporary facilities for on site food preparation divided by the number of participants on the trip.

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: Safewoods Retreat 2026

Travel Date(s): May 27th - May 29th 2026

Travel Destination(s): Darby, MT

Sponsor: Safewoods

Michael Dubin
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Founder
(title)

(signature of sponsor representative)

04/17/26
(date)

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: 2026 Safewoods Wildfire Mititgation Experience

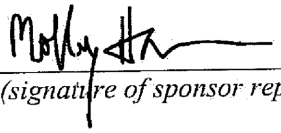
Travel Date(s): May 27-29, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Darby, Montana

Sponsor: Megafire Institute

Molly Hausmann
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Chief Operations Officer
(title)


(signature of sponsor representative)

6 April 2026
(date)

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.* The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Private Sponsor: Megafire Institute

Trip Name: 2026 Safewoods Wildfire Mitigation Experience

Travel Date(s): May 27-29, 2026

Destination(s): Darby, MT

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☑ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Genny Biggs
(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)

Program Director
(Title)

Genny Biggs Digitally signed by Genny Biggs Date: 2026.05.05 15:00:17 -07'00'
(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

5/5/26
(Date)

Congressional Wildfire Mitigation Experience

May 27-29, 2026

Safewoods Retreat, Darby, Montana

Senate Attendees

1. **Nate Bentham**, Policy Advisor for Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
2. **Christina Beros,** Legislative Aide for Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA)
3. **Meagan Gins,** Legislative Assistant for Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
4. **Jacob Greenberg,** Legislative Assistant for Senator Tim Sheehy (R-MT)

Congressional Wildfire Mitigation Experience

May 27-29, 2026

Safewoods Retreat, Darby, Montana

Location: 5916 W Fork Rd, Darby, MT 59829

Purpose: Participants will gain firsthand experience with wildfire mitigation efforts that effectively protect communities and ecosystems from destructive megafire.

Attendees: A bipartisan group of congressional staffers working on wildfire issues.

Primary Sponsor: Megafire Institute

Additional Sponsor: Safewoods

Funding Sponsor: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Agenda

Day 1 – Arrival (*Wed, May 27*)

Morning	**Fly to Missoula, MT** Meagan Gins AA 1839, DCA → DFW, 6:59 AM - 9:30 AM AA 2144, DFW → MSO, 11:00 AM - 1:28 PM Nathan Bentham AA 2304, DCA → ORD, 7:41 AM - 9:03 AM AA 3718, ORD → MSO, 9:55 AM - 12:49 PM Christina Beros UA 2412, BWI → DEN, 8:30 AM - 10:25 AM UA 705, DEN → MSO, 11:20 AM - 1:24 PM
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Airport pick up and lunch**
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	**Transportation from Missoula to Safewoods camp**

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Check-In
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner *Introductions from all attendees and overview of wildfire topics to be covered the next day.* *Led by Michael Dubin, Safewoods.*

Day 2 – Wildfire Mitigation Experience (*Thu, May 28*)

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Forest Management Site Visit & Activity *Land managers will discuss the value of fuels management to reduce wildfire risk and to restore beneficial fire regimes in forested ecosystems. Topics covered will include the use of prescribed fire and selective thinning, what's needed for initial entry vs long term maintenance of the landscape, and how treatment strategies vary among different types of ecosystems. Attendees will participate in a hands-on fuels reduction activity where the group will work together to build a small waste-biomass pile to gain first-hand experience of the work involved with wildfire mitigation treatments.* *Led by David Fox, Bitterroot National Forest.*
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Indigenous Wildfire Stewardship *Attendees will learn about how indigenous stewardship practices can help reduce the risk of destructive fires and provide co-benefits for local communities. Topics covered will include ongoing work by tribes to restore cultural fire practices and place-based land stewardship. Led by Jim Durglo, Intertribal Timber Council*
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Community Mitigation Briefing *Attendees will learn about the value of community-wide mitigations to prevent wildfires from spreading into the built environment and triggering a destructive urban*

conflagration. Topics covered will include defensible space, home hardening, and community-scale mitigations. Led by Neil Chapman, Flagstaff Fire Department

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Wildfire Resilience in Chaparral Landscapes**
Attendees will learn about the unique challenges of wildfire management in the chaparral shrubland ecosystems common to southern California. Topics covered will include the differences and similarities between wildfire management in chaparral and forests, and the dangers of extreme wind-driven fires. Led by Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Wildfire Resilience Co-benefits Briefing**
Wildfire resilience experts will discuss the many additional co-benefits beyond risk reduction that wildfire mitigation treatments can provide. Topics covered will include watershed-level improvements in water quality and quantity, habitat restoration to foster biodiversity and protect critical species, and opportunities to bolster local, rural economies with innovative markets for biomass generated from wildfire mitigation treatments. Led by Kelly Martin, (retired) Yosemite National Park and Paul Hefner, (retired) BLM and USFS.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Break**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Dinner**
Group discussion reflecting on the events of the day. Led by Michael Dubin, Safewoods.

Day 3 – Departure (*Fri, May 29*)

7:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast & Check-Out**

9:00 am – 11:00 am **Transportation to Missoula Airport**

Afternoon	**Return flight to DC** Meagan Gins & Nathan Bentham AA 2144, MSO → DFW, 2:18 PM - 6:50 PM AA 2077, DFW → DCA, 7:57 PM - 11:59 PM Christina Beros UA 1026, MSO → DEN, 6:15 AM - 8:21 AM UA 1418, DEN → BWI, 9:46 AM - 3:17 PM