

2013 JUN 13 PM 1:25 U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBER / OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

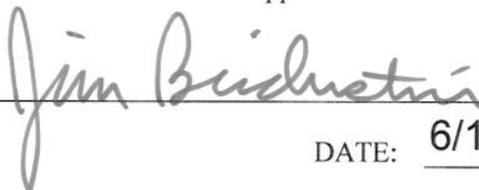
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual Financial Disclosure Statement. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must **complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Jim Bridenstine
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 5/25/2013 Return: 5/30/2013
 b. Dates at personal expense: _____ or None
4. Departure city: Tulsa, OK Destination: Baku, Azerbaijan Return city: Tulsa, OK
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Discussions on regional security, international relations, Caspian Sea energy development and geopolitics.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
 a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda. (*Signify that statement is true by checking box*):
 b. If not, explain: My personal schedule required returning to the U.S. on May 30
so I was not able to participate in the events scheduled in Baku on May 30, 2013.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER: _____


DATE: 6/13/2013

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)

2. Travel Destination(s): Tulsa-Baku-Tulsa

3. Date of Departure: May 25, 2013 Date of Return: May 30, 2013

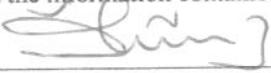
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): James F. Bridenstine
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

| | Total Transportation Expenses | Total Lodging Expenses | Total Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Traveler | \$13,057.70 | \$640 | \$300 | \$175 (Tips and Taxes) |
| Accompanying Relative | | | | |

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Kemal Oksuz Title: President

Organization: Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: 2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1750
Houston, TX 77056

Telephone number: (713) 622 9200

Email Address: kemal_oksuz@tcae.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392, sent or delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth, or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.

Name of Traveler: Rep. Jim Bridenstine

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Jim Bridenstine

Name of signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member or committee: _____

Office address: 216 Cannon HOB

Telephone number: 202-225-2211

Email address of contact person: joseph.kaufman@mail.house.gov

- Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)
Travel email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

3. Check only one: I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities *or*
 - c. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds.

4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____
Please See the Attached List!

5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No

6. Date of departure: May 25, 2013 Date of return: May 31, 2013

7. a. City of departure: Tulsa, OK
b. Destination(s): Baku, Azerbaijan
c. City of return: Tulsa, OK

8. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: *or*
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: *or*
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: *or*
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box):

11. Check one:

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): or
b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

TCAE is nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization which is committed to establishing and advancing long-term relationships and close cooperation between US and Azerbaijan. To introduce and provide exposure to Azerbaijan's military, regional, energy security and economic issues. To promote mutual understanding through conversation.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: or
b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$75 per day

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Azerbaijan stands as a very critical ally for US in the region from energy diversification, geopolitical position and regional security issues.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: JW Marriott City: Baku Cost per night: \$160
Reason(s) for selecting: Our agreement and their great service!

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____
Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____
Reason(s) for selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

| <input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates | Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant | Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant | Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | \$13,800 | \$800 | \$385 |
| For each accompanying relative | | | |

| | <i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | \$150 | Guide, Tipping and Museums |
| For each accompanying relative | | |

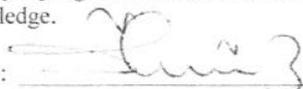
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Kemal Oksuz

Title: President

Organization: Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians

Address: Galleria Tower I-2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1750 Houston, TX 77056

Telephone number: +1 713 622.9200-office, +1 773 396 8669-cell

Email address: kemal_oksuz@tcae.org-kemaloksuz@gmail.com

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

K. Michael Conaway, Texas
Chairman
Linda T. Sánchez, California
Ranking Member

Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania
Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Susan W. Brooks, Indiana

Pedro R. Pierluisi, Puerto Rico
Michael E. Capuano, Massachusetts
Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Ted Deutch, Florida



ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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Counsel to the Chairman

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

May 8, 2013

The Honorable James F. Bridenstine
U.S. House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Azerbaijan, scheduled for May 25 to 31, 2013, sponsored by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians.

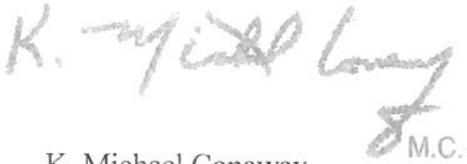
You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$350 from a single source on Schedule VII of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$350] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$350 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

Copy 5-15-13

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of K. Michael Conaway in cursive script.

K. Michael Conaway
Chairman

M.C.

Handwritten signature of Linda T. Sanchez in cursive script.

Linda T. Sanchez
Ranking Member

KMC/LTS:tn

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS
HOUSE INVITEES

US Congressional Delegation Trip to Azerbaijan
May 25, 2013 – May 31, 2013



Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians has outlined the following specific objectives for the trip that why the House of Representatives have been invited:

- To introduce and provide broad exposure to the country's cultural, political, security, economic, and social issues,
- To gain an understanding of topics including national and regional security, foreign policy, trade, economic development & finance, remarkable achievements of the civil society, religious diversity and minority rights,
- To promote mutual understanding through dialogue and discussion among the American participants and the local authorities / civil society.

1. Mr. Jim Bridenstine
US Congressman (R-Oklahoma 1st)

US-Azerbaijan Convention: Vision for Future
May 28-29, 2013 Baku-Azerbaijan

Haydar Aliyev Cultural Center
Haydar Aliyev Avenue, Baku, Azerbaijan AZ1095

The US-Azerbaijan Convention is an annual gathering in celebration of the two decades of strengthening relations and deepening strategic partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Convention is a prominent assembly of government officials, legislators, and leading academics and experts, and it features discussions and deliberations highlighting shared strategic interests of the United States and Azerbaijan, including energy security, and peace, stability and regional cooperation in the South Caucasus and the Caspian Basin.

The Convention also showcases Azerbaijan's rapid transformation from a young country into a regional leader and a reliable actor of the international community, promoting peace and stability, developing the Eurasian energy and transport corridor while integrating into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Program

May 28, 2013

6:00-9:00 pm Welcome Reception

May 29, 2013

9:00-9:30 am Opening Remarks
"Azerbaijan: Vision for Future"

May 29, 2013

9:30-11:00 am Panel I
"The State of the US – Azerbaijan Strategic Partnership"

The focus of this panel discussion is the continuous cooperation on the shared strategic interests of the United States and Azerbaijan and the state of strategic presence of the United States in the Caucasus and the Caspian Basin

May 29, 2013

11:15-12:45 pm Panel II

“Energy Security from the Caspian to Europe: the Changing World Energy Security Dynamics: New prospects for the Southern Energy Corridor”

The panel discussion addresses the development of Eurasian energy and transport corridor through emblematic projects such as the recently brokered Trans-Anatolian Pipeline Agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

May 29, 2013

1:00-2:15 pm Lunch

“Eurasian Security and Cooperation: US Foreign Policy toward Azerbaijan”

May 29, 2013

2:15-3:45 pm Panel III

“Azerbaijan between East and West”

The panel discussion seeks to address the question of how to expand and take advantage of Azerbaijan’s unique position of being a bridge connecting East and West and its potential of contributing significantly to expanding dialogue among cultures and civilizations and uniting major economic systems of Europe and Asia.

May 29, 2013

4:00-5:30 pm Panel IV

“Azerbaijan’s Role in Regional Peace and Stability”

The panel discussion highlights the challenge of maintaining stability in a changing security and strategic environment. It also focuses on international and regional cooperation efforts by Azerbaijan.

May 29, 2013

6:00-8:00 pm Dinner & Closing Reception

“Linking the Caspian to Europe”

ORGANIZERS:

ASSEMBLY OF THE FRIENDS OF AZERBAIJAN

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS
Sponsors & Organizes
the US Congressional Delegation Trip to Azerbaijan
May 25th to May 31st, 2013



ITINERARY

SATURDAY, May 25 (TULSA, OK)

1:00 PM Departure for Azerbaijan

SUNDAY, May 26 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

9:00 PM Arrival in Baku
9:30 PM Transfer to Hotel
10:00 PM Hotel check in (JW Marriott Baku)
11:00 PM Overnight stay

MONDAY, May 27 (BAKU)

8:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel
9:30 AM Briefing at Hotel by the US Embassy (US Foreign Policy towards Azerbaijan)
10:30 AM Briefing at Border Security Agency (Border Security Issues with Iran and Russia;
Future of Caspian Sea)
11:30 AM Briefing at the Presidential Palace (US-Azerbaijan Relations)
1:00 PM Lunch
2:30 PM Visit and meet with the President of Azerbaijan
4:00 PM Visit to the Parliament of Azerbaijan and meet with the Speaker of Parliament
(US-Azerbaijan Congressional Relations)
5:00 PM Back to Hotel and Rest for 2 hours
7:00 PM Dinner
10:00 PM Overnight Stay

TUESDAY, May 28 (BAKU)(Republic Day of Azerbaijan)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 AM Briefing at Hotel on the "Republic Day of Azerbaijan"

11:00 AM Participate at Republic Day Traditions, Customs and Activities
 1:00 PM Lunch
 2:30 PM Meet with the Chair of the Parliament Armed Services Committee (US-Azerbaijan Military Cooperation)
 4:00 PM Back to Hotel and rest for 2 hours
 6:00 PM Get to Haydar Aliyev Cultural center for the US Azerbaijan Convention Welcome Reception
 7:00 PM Dinner at Haydar Aliyev Cultural Center
 10:00 PM Walk in the Baku Lakeshore Boulevard and Enjoy the "Fireworks Show "
 11:00 PM Back to Hotel and Overnight Stay

WEDNESDAY, May 29 (BAKU)

8:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel
 9:00 AM Give a keynote speech at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening (US-Azerbaijan Shared Vision for Future in the Caspian Basin)
 10:00 AM Meet with the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament (Next Steps to be taken at US-Azerbaijan Relations)
 11:00 AM Visit to the National Museum of History
 12:30 PM Lunch & Remarks at US-Azerbaijan Convention
 2:00 PM Visit to the Diplomatic Academy/University (Student Exchange Programs)
 4:00 PM Briefing at State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) (Foreign Investment Policy)
 5:00 PM Back to Hotel and rest for 2 hours
 7:00 PM Dinner & Gala at US-Azerbaijan Convention
 9:00 PM Back to Hotel
 10:00 PM Overnight Stay

THURSDAY, May 30 (BAKU)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel
 10:00 AM Briefing at State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) (Foreign Investment Policy)
 11:00 AM Meet with the Mayor and Tour in the Old City (History, Architecture and Diversity in Baku Old City)
 1:00 PM Lunch
 2:30 PM Briefing at the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) (Energy Security-Southern Energy Corridor)
 4:00 PM Visit to the National Flag Museum
 5:00 PM Back to hotel and rest for 2 hours
 7:00 PM Dinner at a Family House (Family Values and Cuisine Life in Azerbaijan)
 10:00 PM Back to Hotel and overnight stay

FRIDAY, May 31 (BAKU-TULSA)

5:50 AM Early Wake up and Transfer to airport
 7:45 AM Flight back to US

8:30 AM Breakfast on Air

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

“Have a Safe flight back to US!”