

Original Amendment

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER
2015 AUG 17 PM 4:10

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

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, 135 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: The Hon. Renee Ellmers
 2. a. Name of accompanying relative: Brent Ellmers, Ben Ellmers *or* None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: Sun. Aug. 2 Return: Sun. Aug 9
 b. Dates at personal expense: Aug. 3,4 *or* None
 4. Departure city: Raleigh Destination: Prague Return city: Raleigh
 5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center
 6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): See attached agenda
-
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: _____
-

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: 8/17/2015

**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): The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange

2. Travel Destination(s): Prague, The Czech Republic

3. Date of Departure: Tues, Aug. 2, 2015 Date of Return: Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Renee Ellmers, Dr. Brent Ellmers and Ben Ellmers

(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	air \$2236.80	\$989.72	\$858.50	busses \$232.25 airport and venues
Accompanying Relative	air: \$2236.80	n/a	\$858.50	busses \$232.25 airport and venues

6. **Members personally paid all costs for visits to Prague Castle and Jewish Quarter.** 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: James K. Conzelman

Title: President

Organization: The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange

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

Address: 1155 15th Street, NW Suite 550

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone number: 202-216-1008

Email Address: jconzelman@riponsociety.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. Renee Ellmers

**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: 

Name of signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member or committee: _____

Office address: 1210 Longworth HOB

Telephone number: 202-225-4531

Email address of contact person: anna.helms@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

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Renee Ellmers
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange
3. Travel destination(s): Prague, Czech Republic
4. a. Date of departure 8/3/15 Date of return: 8/9/15
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: 8/3/15 - 8/4/15
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: Brent Ellmers
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.

As a House of Representatives Member of the Energy & Commerce Committee, I will be participating in panel discussions on topics including energy production, healthcare and health policy, and telecommunications.

9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: _____

Signature of Employing Member

**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): _____
The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange (Franklin Center)
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 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 *or*.
 - c. 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.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
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):
See Attachment A
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: Tuesday August 4, 2015 Date of return: Sunday, August 9, 2015
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or Member's district
b. Destination(s): Prague, the Czech Republic
c. City of return: Washington DC or Member's district
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:

Both The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center will handle all arrangements for the conference.
Both organizations are interested in promoting trade and enhancing international relations between
the United States and countries such as the Czech Republic.

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:
air travel will be in business class on commercial carriers. Busses will be used in Prague.

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): _____
\$173.80 per day (could fluctuate with the exchange rate)

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

This is the 20th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty being relocated to Prague, both of which are funded by the U.S. Congress.

The U.S is the Czech Republic's 8th largest export market. With tensions in the region increasing, the U.S. could benefit in the areas of energy and trade. The Czech Republic is also a partner in global security via NATO as well and other international organizations such as the OECD, OSCE and the G-20.

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

Hotel name: The Intercontinental Hotel Prague City: Prague Cost per night: \$247.00

Reason(s) for selecting: Price, location and facilities.

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 Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	air \$2,200-5,000	\$988.00	\$695.22
For each accompanying relative	air \$2,200-5000	0	\$695.22

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	ground: \$121.75	busses to/from venues & Prague airport
For each accompanying relative	ground - \$88.39	busses to/from venues

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: James K. Conzelman
 Title: President
 Organization: The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange
 Address: 1155 15th Street, NW Suite 550, Washington, DC 20005
 Telephone number: 202-216-1008
 Email address: jconzelman@riponsociety.org

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)



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE
Prague, Czech Republic, August 5-9, 2015

Attachment A

Congressional Invitees

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
The Honorable Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
The Honorable Mike Capuano (D-MA)
The Honorable Rodney Davis (R-IL)
The Honorable Jeff Denham (R-CA)
The Honorable Renee Ellmers (R-NC)
The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)
The Honorable Pat Meehan (R-PA)
The Honorable Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
The Honorable Erik Paulsen (R-MN)
The Honorable Tom Reed (R-NY)
The Honorable Jim Renacci (R-OH)
The Honorable Steve Scalise (R-LA)
The Honorable Pete Sessions (R-TX)
The Honorable Bill Shuster (R-PA)
The Honorable Jackie Walorski (R-IN)

Congressional Staff Invitee

Mr. Mike Sommers – Chief of Staff, Office of Speaker John Boehner
Ms. Kelli Briggs – Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Pat Tiberi

The TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange will focus on nine major areas: international trade and the TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; defense and NATO; a visit and discussion about Radio Free Europe; health care and health policy; technology and telecommunications; cybersecurity, data protection and privacy; energy production and its trade; international taxation; and transportation and infrastructure.

Below is the list of the panel discussions currently scheduled, along with the Members of Congress who will be speaking on each panel.

Panel 1 – Defense and NATO

Rep. Jackie Walorski – Armed Services Committee

Panel 2 – International Trade

Rep. Bill Pascrell – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade

Rep. Erik Paulsen – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade

Rep. Jim Renacci – Ways & Means Committee

Panel 3 – Health Care and Health Policy

Rep. Marsha Blackburn – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Rep. Larry Bucshon – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Rep. Renee Ellmers – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Ms. Kelli Briggs – Chief of Staff, Rep. Pat Tiberi (Moderator)

Panel 4 – Technology and Telecommunications

Rep. Steve Scalise – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Communications & Technology

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Ms. Kelli Briggs – Chief of Staff, Rep. Pat Tiberi (Moderator)

Panel 5 – Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Privacy

Rep. Mike Capuano – Financial Services Committee

Rep. Marsha Blackburn – Energy & Commerce, Subcommittee on Comm. & Tech.

Rep. Jackie Walorski – Veterans Affairs and Armed Services Committee

Rep. Pat Meehan – Ways and Means Committee

Mr. Mike Sommers, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner (Moderator)

Panel 6 – Energy Production and its Trade

Rep. Larry Bucshon – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Rep. Bill Shuster – Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure

Rep. Rodney Davis – Transportation and Infrastructure

Rep. Jeff Denham – Transportation and Infrastructure

Rep. Tom Reed- Ways and Means Committee

Mr. Mike Sommers – Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner (Moderator)

Panel 7 – The Agenda for the 114th Congress

Rep. Steve Scalise – Majority Whip

Rep. Renee Ellmers – Chair, Republican Women’s Policy Committee

Rep. Pete Sessions – Chair, Rules Committee

Rep. Mike Capuano – Financial Services Committee

Mr. Mike Sommers – Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner (Moderator)

Panel 8 – Transportation and Infrastructure: Facilitating Trade & Travel

Keynote: Rep. Bill Shuster – Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Rep. Rodney Davis – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Rep. Jeff Denham – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Panel 9 – International Taxation and Reform

Rep. Bill Pascrell – Ways & Means

Rep. Erik Paulsen – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

Rep. Tom Reed – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

Rep. Jim Renacci – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

Rep. Pat Meehan – Ways & Means

Rep. Pete Sessions (Moderator)

Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania
Chairman
Linda T. Sánchez, California
Ranking Member

Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Kenny Marchant, Texas

Michael E. Capuano, Massachusetts
Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Ted Deutch, Florida
John B. Larson, Connecticut



ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Joanne White
Administrative Staff Director

Clifford C. Stoddard, Jr.
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

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Renee Ellmers
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to the Czech Republic, scheduled for August 3 to 9, 2015, sponsored by the Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange. We note that this trip includes one day at your personal expense.

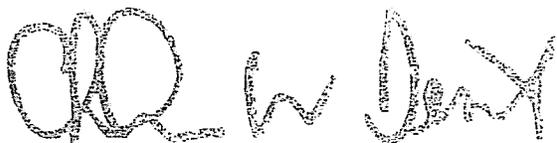
You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this 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 \$375 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$375] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value 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.

The Honorable Renee Ellmers
Page 2

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Charles W. Dent in cursive.

Charles W. Dent
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Linda T. Sánchez in cursive.

Linda T. Sánchez
Ranking Member

CWD/LTS:wfs



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE
Prague, Czech Republic, August 5-9, 2015

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015

Day	Flights arrive in Prague
8:00 am-4:00 pm	Registration and Check-in at the hotel – Front Lobby, Intercontinental Hotel LUNCH ON OWN
4:30 pm-4:45 pm	Welcoming remarks by Majority Whip Steve Scalise and Representative Renee Ellmers – Zlatá Praha Restaurant-9th floor, Intercontinental Hotel
4:45 pm-6:00 pm	<u>In Country Briefing on Czech Republic</u> -Ambassador Andrew Schapiro – U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic -Mr. Steve Kashkett – Deputy Chief of Mission -Mr. Jim Merz – Political-Economic Counselor -Col. Mark Wootan, USAF – Defense Attaché -Mr. Ray Castillo – Public Affairs Counselor
6:00 pm	Depart via bus for opening reception and dinner
6:30 pm-8:30 pm	Opening reception and dinner with U.S. Ambassador Andrew Schapiro, his wife Tamar Newberger, and Embassy staff at the U.S. Ambassador's residence

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015

- 6:45 am-8:00 am **Breakfast at hotel – Zlatá Praha Restaurant, 9th Floor**
- 8:00 am Depart via bus for panels – **Černín Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- 9:00 am-10:00 am *Panel 1* **Panel discussion**
Defense and NATO
A panel on current defense cooperation between the U.S. and Czech Republic and a discussion about other areas of national security where the two countries can further collaborate. With both countries being members of NATO and given some of the regional instability of Eastern Europe, the panel will explore ways that this valuable alliance and the U.S. can assist to mitigate regional concerns and pushback against Russian encroachment.
- Panel:*
-**Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN)** – Armed Services Committee
-**Deputy Minister Jakub Kulháněk** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Moderator: **Ambassador Petr Gandalovič** – Czech Ambassador to the United States
- 10:00 am-11:15 am *Panel 2* **Panel discussion**
International Trade and the Economy
The panel will discuss bilateral trade cooperation between the U.S. and the Czech Republic and explore ways to expand this mutually beneficial relationship. Additionally, comprised of nearly half of the world's economic output, a trade partnership between the U.S. and EU will be an important economic achievement for all parties. The session will also look at the historic Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership discussion, analyze the progress made so far, and make predictions regarding a final TTIP agreement and ratification date.
- Panel:*
-**Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)** – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade
-**Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN)** – Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade
-**Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH)** – Ways & Means Committee
-**Deputy Minister Vladimír Bártl** – Ministry of Industry and Trade
-**Junior Deputy Minister Ivan Jančárek** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Moderator: **Ambassador Connie Morella**

THURSDAY CONTINUED

- 11:15 am-12:00 pm Meeting and group discussion on Czech-U.S. Relations
-Deputy Minister Vladimír Bártl
-Deputy Minister Jakub Kulháněk
-Junior Deputy Minister Ivan Jančárek
-Ambassador Petr Gandalovič
- 12:00 pm-12:30 pm Depart via bus for St. Agnes of Bohemia Convent for panels – panels will be in the St. Francis Church at the Convent
- 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Lunch with Speaker – “The Challenges of Bringing Free Media to Unfree Societies”
Remarks by Mr. Nenad Pejic – Editor-in-Chief, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
- 1:45 pm-3:00 pm *Panel 3* **Panel discussion**
Health Care and Health Policy
A discussion about what the U.S. and Czech Republic can learn from each other regarding their health insurance and health care delivery systems. Additionally, the panelists will debate the balance between industry regulation and promoting rapid innovation, and the role of government in research and health care as a whole.
- Panel:*
- Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) – Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
 - Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
 - Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
 - Mr. Pavel Hroboň – Managing Partner, Advance Healthcare Management Institute
 - Mr. Tomáš Kolář – Managing Director, CEO, Linet
- Moderator: Ms. Kelli Briggs – Chief of Staff, Rep. Pat Tiberi*
- 3:00 pm Depart on foot to Jewish Quarter
- 3:15 pm-5:30 pm “Human and Religious Rights: Past and Present” –
Historian-led visit of Prague’s Jewish Quarter
Members of Congress, Congressional Staff, and their spouses personally paid for this visit
- 5:30 pm Return on foot to hotel and prepare for dinner
- 6:45 pm Meet in lobby to depart for small group dinner discussions at various local restaurants
- 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Member of Congress-led dinner discussions with members of The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center on the topics of the day at various restaurants around Prague. Topics include: Defense, International Trade, and Health Policy.
- 9:30 pm-11:00 pm After dinner coffee – Zlatá Praha Restaurant, 9th Floor
-

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2015

- 6:45 am Breakfast at hotel – Zlatá Praha Restaurant-9th Floor
- 7:45 am Members of Congress and spouses depart via bus for **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty**
- 8:30 am-10:00 am **Members of Congress and spouses panel briefing and visit to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on Russia and Iran**
A briefing with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty senior officials at its Prague-based headquarters. RFE/RL receives 100% of its funding through the Congressional appropriations process.
- Panel 1 – Russia and Ukraine:*
-**Ms. Irina Lagunina** – Director, Russian Service
-**Mr. Kenan Aliyev** – Executive Editor, “Current Time”
-**Ms. Maryana Drach** – Director, Ukrainian Service
- Panel 2 – Iran and the Middle East:*
-**Mr. Mardo Soghom** – Regional Director, Iran & Iraq
-**Mr. Armand Mostofi** – Director, Radio Farda (Iran)
- 10:15 am Depart via bus for panels – **Zofin Palace-Small Hall**
- 10:45 am-11:30 am *Panel 4* **Panel discussion**
Technology and Telecommunications
A discussion about what the U.S. can learn from the Czech Republic’s “*Digital Czech Republic v. 2.0*” and an exchange of ideas between the two countries on all issues of technology. Additionally, the panel will discuss the role of government in encouraging technological innovation through, among other things, direct investment, regulatory reform, and allocation of resources such as radio spectrum.
- Panel:*
-**Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA)** – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
-**Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)** – Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
-**Mr. Milan Vašina** – CEO, T-Mobile Czech Republic
-**Mr. Filip Šváb** – Executive Director, International External Affairs, AT&T Germany, CEE Region and Russia
Moderator: Ms. Kelli Briggs – Chief of Staff, Rep. Pat Tiberi
- 11:30 am-12:15 pm *Panel 5* **Panel discussion**
Cybersecurity, Data Protection, and Privacy
While many issues surrounding data privacy will not be resolved in the TTIP negotiations, there exist areas of agreement among the U.S., the EU, and the Czech Republic. This panel will focus on these areas of agreement regarding the protection of consumer, corporate and government data while balancing issues of privacy and national security. The panel may also explore ideas to mitigate future jurisdictional disputes.
- Panel:*
-**Rep. Mike Capuano (D-MA)** – Financial Services Committee
-**Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)** – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
-**Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN)** – Armed Services Committee
-**Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA)** – Ways and Means Committee
-**Mr. Jaroslav Šmíd** – Deputy Director, National Security Authority of the Czech Republic
-**Mr. Aleš Špidla** – Manager, Risk Assurance Solutions, PwC
Moderator: Mr. Mike Sommers – Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner

FRIDAY CONTINUED

12:15 pm-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm-2:15 pm	<i>Panel 6</i> Panel Discussion <u>Energy Production and its Trade</u> Due to historic changes in domestic energy production and availability, both the U.S. and the Czech Republic are reexamining current export policies. This panel will discuss the pros and cons of such a shift in energy policy, as well as ways in which government can best utilize its country's natural resources in an uncertain geopolitical climate. The panel will also examine other challenges and opportunities in the area of energy including technological innovation and common sense regulations to boost the availability of safe, affordable energy. <i>Panel:</i> -Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) – Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power -Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) – Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee -Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee -Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA) – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee -Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) – Ways and Means Committee -Ambassador Václav Bartuška – Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -Mr. Peter Stračár – CEO, General Electric for the Central and Eastern Europe <i>Moderator: Mr. Mike Sommers</i> – Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner
2:15 pm-2:45 pm	Depart via bus for Chamber of Deputies and Senate
2:45 pm-4:30 pm	Visit to the Czech Republic Chamber of Deputies and Senate. Delegation meeting with members of the Czech-U.S. Friendship Group of the Czech Chamber of Deputies -Ms. Jaroslava Jermanová, MP (ANO 2011) – First Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Friendship Group -Mr. Martin Novotný, MP (ODS) – Chairman, Friendship Group -Mr. Marek Černoč, MP (Úsvit) – Friendship Group
4:30 pm	Return via bus to hotel and prepare for dinner
6:45 pm	Meet in lobby to depart for small group dinner discussions at various local restaurants
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Member of Congress-led dinner discussions with members of The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center on the topics of the day at various restaurants around Prague. Topics include: RFE/RL, Energy, Technology and Telecommunication, and Cybersecurity and Privacy.
9:30 pm-11:00 pm	After dinner coffee – Zlatá Praha Restaurant, 9th Floor

SATURDAY CONTINUED

- 12:15 pm-1:15 pm **Lunch with speaker –“Russia and the Former Eastern Bloc”**
Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček – Head of the International Relations Department, Office of the President of the Czech Republic. Remarks comparing and contrasting the military aggression of the USSR post-WWII with recent Russian actions in Ukraine and what it may portend for former Soviet satellite states like the Czech Republic.
- 1:15 pm-2:45 pm *Panel 9* **Panel discussion**
International Taxation and Reform
With its unwieldy complexity and the highest statutory rate in the developed world, many believe the U.S. Tax Code greatly hinders the U.S. – with recent increases in Corporate Inversions being only one symptom of this issue. This panel will discuss the current state of international taxation and explore ways – including reform and targeted tax breaks like repatriation – the U.S. can increase revenue while also boosting our global competitiveness and nation’s economy. One facet of the discussion will be the recent OECD activity regarding base erosion and profit sharing (BEPS) and other international tax developments in the EU and the Czech Republic.
- Panel:*
-Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) – Ways & Means Committee
-Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) – Ways & Means Committee
-Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH) – Ways & Means Committee
-Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA) – Ways & Means Committee
-Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) – Ways & Means Committee
-Mr. Peter Chrenko – Tax and Legal Services Leader, PwC
Czech Republic
Moderator: Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX)
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm **Historian led visit to the Prague Castle after meetings in part of Prague Castle. The Castle is the seat of the Head of State and an important historical and cultural monument.**
Members of Congress, Congressional Staff, and their spouses personally paid for this visit
- 5:00 pm Return via bus to hotel and prepare for dinner
- 6:45 pm Meet in lobby to depart via bus to closing reception and dinner
- 7:00 pm-9:45 pm **Closing reception and dinner – Smetana Hall, Obecní dům – Municipal House**
- 10:00 pm-12:00 am **After dinner coffee – Zlatá Praha Restaurant, 9th Floor**
-

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015

- 6:45 am-9:00 am **Breakfast at hotel – Zlatá Praha Restaurant-9th Floor**
- Morning **Departures**
-

End of TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE
Prague, Czech Republic, August 5-9, 2015

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Renee Ellmers
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ellmers,

We are writing to invite you and Brent to participate in the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange that The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center are holding in **Prague, The Czech Republic, August 5-9, 2015**. We plan on departing from the U.S. on Tuesday, August 4th to arrive in Prague on Wednesday, August 5th and return to the U.S. on Sunday, August 9th.

The purpose of this policy conference is to examine some of the key issues impacting the U.S.-Czech relationship. One of our main topics will be trade, particularly as it relates to The Czech Republic, the EU and the TTIP. The conference will also feature panel discussions and keynote presentations on such topics as energy production and distribution, economic growth and taxes, health policies, technology and telecommunication, defense, security and cybersecurity. We will also have a chance to visit the Czech Chamber of Deputies.

The conference keynote addresses and panel discussions will feature Members of Congress, Czech government officials, diplomats from the region, and policy experts from both business and academia. As a leader in U.S. legislative policy and a longtime proponent of keeping the United States engaged around the world, we would be honored to have you participate in these policy discussions as well.

You and Brent will receive non-refundable roundtrip business class airfare from your Congressional District to Prague, the Czech Republic, hotel accommodations, group meals and ground transportation. The TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange has been organized in accordance with all Ethics Committee guidelines.

TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange
Page 2

A preliminary conference agenda is enclosed for your review. You are asked to be a speaker at one or more of the sessions. While your contributions to all sessions would be of great interest, we will work with your office to identify the specific topic(s) where you can help lead the discussion as a speaker. There will be both keynotes and panel sessions where other policy experts will participate. Spouses are encouraged to attend these informative sessions as well as all events.

Once we receive your acceptance, we will provide the necessary documents you must submit to the House Ethics Committee. We anticipate about 15 Democratic and Republican Members of Congress participating. It is our sincere hope that you will be able to participate in this event as well.

There has been extraordinary interest from Members to attend this conference, and we have limited capacity. We ask that you advise us as soon as possible, but no later than March 16th if you would like to participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Conzelman at (202) 216-1008 or jconzelman@riponsociety.org.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Connie Morella
U.S. Ambassador to the OECD
Chairwoman, the Franklin Center



James K. Conzelman
President & CEO
The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center

Enclosures

The Ripon Society is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia. It is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Ripon Society does not make contributions or expenditures to influence elections. In addition, The Ripon Society does not engage in other election activities, including voter registration, voter identification, get-out-the-vote activity, or generic campaign activity, collectively referred to as "federal election activity" in the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. Donations from corporations, organizations or individuals are accepted.

The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange (Franklin Center) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1978 and is committed to enhancing global understanding of important international issues. The Franklin Center does not make contributions or expenditures to influence elections nor does it engage in any election or lobbying activities.