

2008 APR -4 PM 4: 50

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives  
110<sup>th</sup> Congress

EMPLOYEE  
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for meetings, speaking engagements, fact-finding trips or similar events in connection with official duties. You need not disclose government-funded or political travel on this form, or travel that is unrelated to official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report all privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those persons required to file them. In accordance with clause 5 of House Rule 25, complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed. The Clerk is to make these forms publicly available as soon as possible after they are received. Obtain the dollar amounts from the sponsor; if exact dollar amounts are unavailable, provide a good faith estimate.

Name of Employee (print or type): Robert E. Primus

Name of Accompanying Family Member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Employee:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Departure and Date of Return: March 15- March 21, 2008

Dates at Personal Expense: None

Itinerary (cities of departure – destination – return): Washington - Istanbul - Ankara - Washington

Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turkish Cultural Center

Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Please see the attached pages

Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify "yes" for each item by checking the corresponding box):

1.  the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form completed by trip sponsor, including all attachments;
2.  the Privately-Sponsored Travel Approval Form completed by the employee; **and**
3.  the Committee on Standards' letter approving my participation on this trip.

I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda (signify "yes" by checking box):

If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

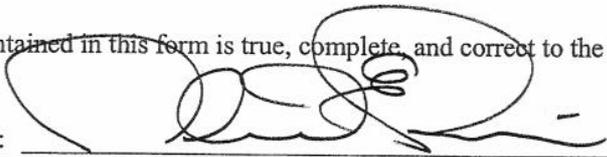
*JAPUANO*

**TRAVEL EXPENSES:**

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses
For employee:	\$1200.00	\$1200.00	\$150.00
For accompanying family member:			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount)	Specific Nature of Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For employee:	\$20.00	Taxi
For accompanying family member:		

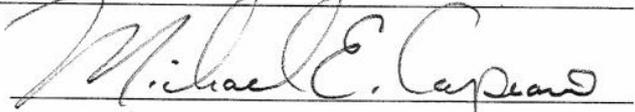
I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE: 

DATE: April 4, 2008

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed above were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Michael E. Capuano

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: 

DATE: April 4, 2008

*Version date 4/2007 by Committee on Standards of Official Conduct*

The meetings generally consisted of the staff delegation sitting down with political, cultural, and religious leaders to discuss overall U.S.-Turkish relations and the challenges facing the emerging Turkish democracy with respect to its efforts to join the European Union and increase its influence in the Middle East. In addition to the meetings, cultural outings were planned to introduce the delegation to the historic significance of Istanbul. We were also hosted by business leaders and members of the Turkish Parliament for dinners that focused on the economic and political discussion. The following meetings and events took place during the trip:

Samanyolu Television studios: Met with the Vice General Manager and reporters to discuss efforts to produce open and balanced news and informational programming in Turkey.

Rav Isak Haleva, the Chief Rabbi of Turkey: Met with the Chief Rabbi to discuss the Jewish community in Turkey, Turkish-Israeli relation, and the role of inter-faith organizations in Turkey.

Zaman Newspaper: Met with the Deputy Editor in Chief and the Managing Editor of one of Turkey's most respected newspaper, which includes an English version (Zaman Today) The discussion focused on press independence and transparency within the Turkish media.

Journalists and Authors Foundation: Met with the Vice President of the organization and discussed the foundation's role in facilitating interfaith dialogues in Turkey and around the world.

Patriarchal Representative of the Syrian Catholic Church in Turkey: Met with the Monsignor to discuss the Catholic Church's role in promoting and sustaining interfaith dialogue in Turkey.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch: Met with a representative of the Parish to the Greek Orthodox Church's relations with the Turkish state and the status of the Heybeliada Priest School.

Academics from Fatih University: Met with academics and officials from the University to discuss its multicultural educational model which is being implemented in Turkey and some 102 countries.

The Honorable Muammer Guler, Governor of Istanbul: Met with the governor to discuss the economic, cultural and political importance of Istanbul in the Eurasia region. The meeting included discussions on immigration, drug trafficking and urban terror groups.

Directorate of Religious Affairs: Met with the Vice President of the Agency to discuss the role of the office and its relationship with religious communities in Turkey.

Turkish History Association: Met with the Director to discuss Turkish opinions and viewpoints relating to the Armenian Genocide.

Headquarters of the AK Parti: Met with the Deputy Chairman of the Party, as well as other key members of parliament to discuss democratic reforms, Turkey's desire to join the European Union, and the Supreme Court challenge to close the party.

The Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Turkey: Met with the Chief of Staff to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day operations of the Prime Minister's office and discuss a variety of issues of importance to the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Turkish-American Business Association: Met with the Honorary President of the Turkish-American Business Association as well as other Turkish business leaders to discuss issues of importance to the business community in Turkey.

Turkish Grand National Assembly: Met with key members of parliament, a representative from the European Union, and key parliamentary advisors to discuss issues pertaining to current democratic reforms underway in Turkey, Turkey's pending EU membership, as well as the current political state of Turkey.

In addition to these meetings, we attended the following events:

A tour of the Topkapi Palace:

A tour of AYASOFYA: a 1500 year-old church that was converted into a mosque, and then a museum.

A tour of Dolmabahe Palace

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

**PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM**  
(provide directly to each House invitee)

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 XXV, 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. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee.

*Private sponsors are urged to submit this form to each House invitee at least 30 days before travel is scheduled to begin. The failure to provide the Committee with adequate time to review the form and attachments may result in the invitee not receiving approval for the trip. The submission of an incomplete form will delay the review process. Before completing this form, sponsors are urged to carefully review the Committee's private travel guidelines and advisory memoranda detailing the rules and restrictions for private travel, as well as the instructions for completing this form. Sponsors should call the Committee with any questions prior to submitting the form. Please type form.*

1. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER - NEW YORK  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a federally-registered lobbyist or a registered foreign agent (signify "yes" by checking box):
3. I represent that the trip sponsor(s) has not accepted from any other source funds earmarked directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box):
4. Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?  Yes  No
5. Provide names and titles of ALL House invitees; for each invitee, provide explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): SEE THE ATTACHMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Dates of travel: MARCH 15-21, 2008  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Cities of departure – destination – return: WASHINGTON DC - TURKEY (ISTANBUL-ANKARA-ISTANBUL) - WASHINGTON DC  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities taking place during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities) (signify "yes" by checking box):
9. 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 federally registered lobbyist or registered foreign agent:  or
  - c. The trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
10. If travel is for participation in a one-day event (i.e., if you checked Question 9(c)), check one of the following:
  - a. One-night's lodging and meals are being offered:  or
  - b. Two-nights' lodging and meals are being offered:If "b" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. If the trip is not sponsored by an institution of higher education, I represent that a federally-registered lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (*signify "yes" by checking box*):
12. Private sponsors must have a direct and immediate relationship to the purpose of the trip or location being visited. Describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip: Turkish Cultural Center (TCC) was founded and is funded by the Turkish-American community. The trip aims helping the congressional staff members better understand Turkish society and politics in order to strengthen the Turkish-American dialogue.
13. Describe each sponsor's organizational interest in the purpose of the trip: TCC is a non-governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural dialogue. TCC fact-finding trip to Turkey will serve greatly to inform not only the trip participants about Turkey but also the hosts in Turkey about the United States.
14. Describe the type and class of the transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first-class transportation will be provided. In addition, for travel via aircraft, please indicate if travel is being offered on a commercial flight, chartered flight or on an aircraft operated or paid for by a carrier not licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate for compensation or hire (*i.e.*, a private aircraft). If first-class fare is being provided, or if travel is via chartered or private aircraft, please provide an explanation describing why such travel is warranted: Round-trip flight between Washington DC and Istanbul/Turkey, and between Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey will be economy (coach) class on a commercial flight.
15. 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 "yes" by checking box*):
16. I represent that either (*check one of the following*):
- 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*
  - The trip involves events that are arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:   
If "b" is checked, detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_
17. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The purpose of the trip is to understand the contemporary Turkish politics and the US-Turkish relations. For that, Turkey has been selected as the location of the trip.
18. Name of hotel or other lodging facility: RAMADA PLAZA - ISTANBUL / METROPOLITAN - ANKARA
19. Cost per night of hotel or other lodging facility (approximate cost may be provided): \$200 / night
20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility: RAMADA PLAZA in Istanbul and METROPOLITAN in Ankara are well-located in the middle of both cities providing ease access to the meeting locations.

21. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$ 1200	\$ 1200	\$ 150
For each accompanying family member			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee		
For each accompanying family member		

22. I represent that reimbursement for miscellaneous travel expenses for the trip, such as travel to and from airports, security costs, interpreter fees, visa application fees, and similar expenses, will be for actual costs incurred and are necessary for the purpose of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box):

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title: MEHMET KALYONCU, Director of Government and International Relations

Organization: TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER - NEW YORK (TCC)

Address: 560 Lexington Avenue 16th Floor, New York NY 10022

Telephone number: (212) 696 1060

Fax number: (212) 696 2660

Email Address: mkalyoncu@turkishculturalcenter.com

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

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

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 HT-2, The Capitol  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)  
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)  
 (202) 226-7172 (fax for travel approvals)

Version date 4/2007 by Committee on Standards of Official Conduct



**TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER**  
**March 15 – 21, 2008**  
**Congressional Delegation Trip Itinerary**

The following itinerary consists of meetings with experts, academics, businessmen, journalists, religious representatives, local and governmental officials. The meetings and their contents have been arranged in a way to help the trip participants observe political and social aspects of the contemporary Turkey and be able to evaluate them from the US-Turkish relations point of view.

**15 March / SATURDAY – WASHINGTON**

Departure from IAD Airport

**16 March / SUNDAY – ISTANBUL**

- Arriving in Istanbul / Transfer to Hotel
- Dinner Forum with Businessmen (2hr)
- TUSKON (Confederation of Turkish Industrialists)
- Back to Hotel

**17 March / MONDAY – ISTANBUL**

- Breakfast at Hotel

**- Briefing by Dr. Ilber Ortayli, Historian and the Head of the Topkapi Palace (1hr)**

**Description:**

The meeting serves to the overall purposes of the trip, which is to understand social and political aspects of the contemporary Turkey. For the foreign observers, it is quite important to view the contemporary Turkey with the Ottoman background in order to understand the geostrategic position of the country. Briefing on the Ottoman Empire background of Turkey and its relation to the broader Middle East, Dr. Ilber Ortayli will help the co-del members learn about various parameters that influence the foreign policy making of the Turkish state in the region and vis-à-vis the United States.

- Meeting with His Excellency Muammer Guler, Governor of Istanbul (1hr)

**Description:**

His Excellency Muammer Guler, Governor of Istanbul, will be receiving the delegation in his office. He will brief the delegation about the city of Istanbul, and its role as a financial hub in the Eurasia as well as the government's struggle with the urban terror groups linked to the PKK and the al-Qaeda. The briefing will be followed by a Q&A session.

- Lunch at Restaurant

**- Briefing by Dr. Sedat Laciner, Director of USAK, National Strategic Research Institution (1hr)**

**Description:**

Dr. Laciner will brief the delegation about various political matters in Turkey and their possible implications for the US-Turkish relations. These include the recent parliamentary and presidential elections, Turkish military's cross-border operations into Northern Iraq, and developments in Northern Iraq. One hour presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

**- Dinner Meeting with Dr. Zeynel A. Erdem, Chairman of TABA AmCham Turkish – American Business Association (2hr)**

**Description:**

Dr. Zeynel A. Erdem, in his capacity as the Chairman of Turkish-American Business Association and the leading figure to promote Turkish-American dialogue, will inform about the Turkish public opinion during the period of March 1<sup>st</sup> motion to allow the US troops' use of Turkish soils prior to the US Iraqi operation. He will brief the delegation about the recent improvements of the Turkish public opinion of the US after the latter's support to Turkey's fight against the PKK.

**18 March / TUESDAY – ISTANBUL**

- Breakfast Meeting with Media Reps. at STV (2hr)

**Description:**

The delegation will be hosted by Dr. Hidayet Karaca, Chief Executive Officer of Samanyolu TV



Station, over a breakfast meeting at the STV. During the breakfast, Dr. Karaca will inform the delegation about the factors that influence the Turkish public opinion about the United States and its presence in the Middle East. The meeting will be implemented in a forum format in order to stimulate vibrant Q&A session.

**- Briefing by the Director of the Turkish-Jewish Quintcentennial Foundation (1hr)**

**Description:**

The Director of the Turkish-Jewish Foundation will inform the delegation about the Jewish community in Turkey, Turkish-Israeli relations, and the Muslim-Jewish dialogue as implemented in Turkey.

- Lunch at a Restaurant

**- Briefing Dr. Cemal Oztas, Historian and Head of Turkish National Palaces and Museums at the Dolmabahce Palace (1hr)**

**Description:**

The meeting serves to the overall purposes of the trip, which is to understand social and political aspects of the contemporary Turkey. For the foreign observers, it is quite important to view the contemporary Turkey with the Republican background in order to understand the contemporary public opinion. Briefing on the Republican background of Turkey and its quest for the European Union membership, Dr. Oztas will help the co-del members learn about the key determinants of the US-Turkish and Turkish-EU relations. The briefing will be followed by a Q&A session.

**- Dinner Meeting with Academics at Fatih University (2hr)**

**Description:**

The meeting aims to inform the delegation about the multicultural education model which is being implemented in Turkey and some 102 countries in schools founded by the Turkish entrepreneurs in cooperation with the local authorities. The model has been successfully implemented in economically deprived and ethno-religiously fractured communities in Central and Southeast Asia. The

meeting is intended to foster ideas for long term solutions to the Middle East, especially Iraq, problem stemming from the lack of education and ethno-religious conflict.

- Night Flight to Ankara

**19 March / WEDNESDAY – ANKARA**

- Breakfast at Hotel

- Meeting with Hon. Dr. Ali Bardakoglu, Head of the Directorate of Religious Affairs (1hr)

- Briefing by Dr. Yusuf Halacoglu, Head of Turkish History Association (1hr)

- Meeting with **Hon. Koksal Toptan, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (1hr)**

- Meeting with **Hon. Ali Babacan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey (1hr)**

- Dinner with the Parliamentary Turkish-American Caucus Members & Bureaucrats (2hr)

- Morning Flight back to Istanbul (20 March)

**20 March / THURSDAY – ISTANBUL**

- **Breakfast Meeting with Mr. Ekrem Dumanli, Chief Executive Director of ZAMAN Newspaper (2hr)**

**Description:**

The breakfast meeting is intended to provide a forum between the delegation and the foreign affairs journalists. Mr. Dumanli will brief the delegation about press independence and transparency in Turkey.

- Lunch at a Restaurant

- **Meeting with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch (1hr)**

**Description:**

The Patriarch will brief the delegation about the Greek Orthodox community in Turkey, the Greek Orthodox Church's relations with the Turkish



state, and the contemporary status of the Heybeliada Priest School.

**- Meeting with the Armenian Patriarch Mesrob II (1hr)**

**Description:**

The Armenian Patriarch Mesrob II will brief the delegation about the contemporary status of the Armenian community in Turkey. More specifically, Patriarch Mesrob II is expected to inform the delegation about the recent assassination of journalist Hrant Dink, former editor of bi-lingual daily Agos. In addition, Patriarch II will inform the delegation about the Turkish Armenian community's position on the so-called Armenian genocide. The briefing is to be followed by a Q&A session.

- Dinner at Hotel

**21 March / FRIDAY – ISTANBUL**

- Breakfast at Hotel

**- Meeting with Mr. Harun Tokak, President of Journalists & Authors Foundation (2hr)**

**Description:**

Mr. Tokak will brief the delegation about the Journalists & Authors Foundation's Abant Platform which provides an intellectual platform to Turkish and International journalists and authors to discuss the matters of intercultural-interfaith dialogue. Similarly, Mr. Tokak will inform the delegation about the Journalists & Authors Foundation's cooperation with the UN's Alliance of Civilizations. The briefing will be followed by a video presentation about the interfaith dialogue process in Turkey. The video presentation will be followed by Q&A session.

- Lunch at Restaurant

**- Meeting with Monsignor George Marovich, Vatican's Representative (1hr)**

**Description:**

Vatican's Representative Monsignor George Marovich will inform the delegation about the Catholic community in Turkey. More specifically,

he will brief the delegation about the Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Turkey. As one of the leading figures in Turkey to promote interfaith dialogue, he will evaluate the visit from the Muslim-Christian dialogue point of view. The briefing will be followed by a Q&A session.

**- Meeting with His Excellency Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul (1hr)**

**Description:**

His Excellency Kadir Topbas will receive the delegation in his office. He will brief the delegation about Istanbul's growing importance as a cultural capital of Europe.

**- Visit to the Historical Grand Bazaar**

- Dinner at Hotel

**22 March / SATURDAY – ISTANBUL**

- Transfer to Airport

- Flight back to the US

- Arrival in Washington on March 22

❖ Meetings and their durations are tentative and subject to change depending on the availability of the hosts.

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct**

**PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM  
For Members, Officers and Employees  
(submit directly to the Committee)**

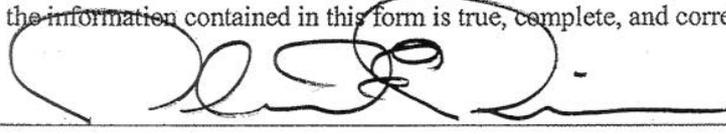
This form should be completed by House Members, officers or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule XXV, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer or employee, together with the completed and signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form.

*Members, officers and employees seeking approval for travel are urged to submit all forms to the Committee at least 30 days before travel is scheduled to begin. The failure to provide the Committee with adequate time to review the form and attachments may result in the invitee not receiving approval for the trip. A copy of this form will be made available for public inspection. Please type form. Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392.*

1. Name of Member, officer or employee (traveler): Robert E. Primus
  
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish Cultural Center  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Travel destination(s): The Republic of Turkey
  
4. a. Dates of travel: March 15- March 21, 2008  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  Yes  No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. a. Name of accompanying family member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Relationship to Member/Officer:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(c) on the Trip Sponsor form (i.e., the travel is being sponsored by an entity that employs a lobbyist)?  Yes  No  
b. If yes, check one of the following:  
(1) Approval for one-night's lodging and meals is being requested:  or  
(2) Approval for two-nights' lodging and meals is being requested:   
If "(2)" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments (indicate that form is attached by checking box):

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to your official or representational duties:  
As the Congressman's chief of staff, and one of his senior foreign affairs advisors, I believe this trip  
would further benefit my understanding of Turkey's political, economic, and cultural situations.

9. I certify that the information contained in 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/Committee: Rep. Michael E. Capuano

Office address: 1530 Longworth Building

Phone number: 202-225-5111

Email address: robert.primus@mail.house.gov

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

**FOR STAFF:  
TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

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.

  
Signature of Employing Member

Date: 25 February 2008

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

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
U.S. House of Representatives  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103 (phone)  
(202) 225-7392 (fax)

*Version date 9/2007 by Committee on Standards of Official Conduct*

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DAWN KELLY MOBLEY,  
COUNSEL TO THE CHAIRWOMAN

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF  
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

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TODD UNGERECHT  
COUNSEL TO THE RANKING  
REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUITE HT-2, THE CAPITOL  
(202) 225-7103

March 4, 2008

Mr. Robert E. Primus  
Office of the Honorable Michael E. Capuano  
1530 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Primus:

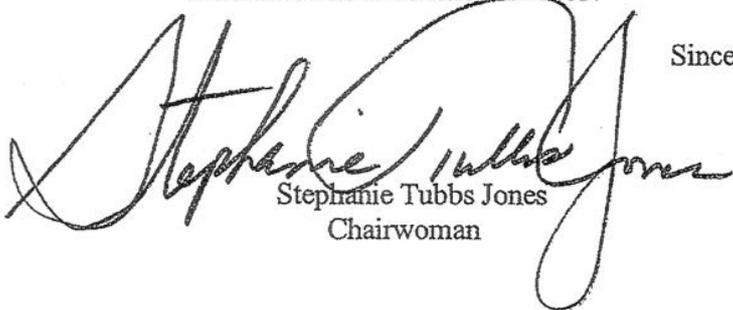
Pursuant to House Rule XXV, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct hereby approves your proposed trip to Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey scheduled for March 15 to 21, 2008 sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Center – New York.

You must complete an Employee Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are required to attach a copy of this letter and the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form, including all attachments. You must also include a copy of the Traveler Form completed by you and signed by your employing Member. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$335 from a single source on Schedule VII of that statement.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$335] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$335 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be turned over to the Clerk of the House and disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments.

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

Sincerely,



Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Chairwoman



Doc Hastings  
Ranking Republican Member