

Original Amendment

U.S. House of Representatives
111th Congress

EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER
2010 SEP -2 PM 1:59
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for meetings, speaking engagements, fact-finding trips, or similar events undertaken in connection with 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 House Rule 25, clause 5, 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 the second page of this form publicly available as soon as possible after it is filed.

Name of Traveler (print or type): John Laufer

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

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: John Laufer

DATE: 9/2/10

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on this form 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: Pedro Pierlusi

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: P. Pierlusi

DATE: 9/2/10

**EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM**

1. Name of Traveler (print or type): _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Family Member (if any): _____
 b. Relationship to Employee: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: August 14th - 22nd, 2010
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____
4. Itinerary (cities of departure – destination – return): Washington D.C. - Skopje - Bitola - Ohrid - Skopje - Istanbul - Ankara - Istanbul - Edremit - Troy - Gallipoli - Edremit - Istanbul - Washington D.C.
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turkish Coalition of America
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): final itinerary enclosed
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
 - a. the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form completed by the trip sponsor, including all attachments;
 - b. the Traveler Form completed by the employee; *and*
 - c. the Committee on Standards' letter 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: _____
9. TRAVEL EXPENSES: *Obtain actual dollar amounts from the sponsor. If exact dollar amounts are unavailable by the due date, provide a good faith estimate and file an amended form once the correct amounts are received.*

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses
For employee:	\$3,667.24	\$1,728.98	\$839.41
For accompanying family member:			
	Other Expenses (dollar amount)	Specific Nature of Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)	
For employee:	\$122.29	historian fees, entrance fees	
For accompanying family member:			

**TCA-Sponsored Congressional Staffer Trip to Turkey & Macedonia
August 14th-22nd, 2010**

Saturday, August 14th, 2010

5:40pm Depart from Dulles International Airport (IAD) on Austrian Airlines Flight 94

Sunday, August 15th, 2010

8:40am Arrive Vienna International (VIE) Airport

10:55am Depart from Vienna International Airport (VIE) on Austrian Airlines Flight 779

12:30pm Arrive Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP)

1:00pm Check-in to Holiday Inn

1:30pm Luncheon briefing with representatives of NDI, Open Society Institute, and the U.S. Embassy on Macedonia's domestic affairs and foreign policy at Cactus Restaurant

4:00pm Meeting with U.S. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker at the U.S. Embassy

5:15pm Meeting with historian in Skopje at Kale Fortress, the grave of Goce Delchev, Stara Čaršija, Kuršumli An, and the Mother Teresa Memorial House

8:00pm TCA Dinner at St. Panteleimon Church restaurant with members of largest opposition party

Monday, August 16th, 2010

8:30am Breakfast briefing with Turkish DCM Pinar Gulunkayseri at the Holiday Inn (Millenium II Hall)

10:00am Meeting with Defense Minister Zoran Konjanovski at the Macedonian Army Hall

11:00am Meeting with Foreign Minister Antonio Miloshoski at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

12:00pm Board bus for Bitola

2:30pm Meeting with historian at Manastir Askerî İdadisi attended by Atatürk in 1890s (Former Bitola Military Academy, now the Institute and Museum of Bitola)

3:45pm Board bus for Ohrid – known as the “Jerusalem of the Balkans”

5:00pm Meeting with historian at St. Bogorodica Perivlepta, Tsar Samuil Fortress, Church of St. John Kaneo, and Ohrid Čaršija

6:00pm Reception hosted by His Excellency President Gjorge Ivanov at Hotel Inex Gorica (where the 2007 NATO conference was hosted)

7:30pm TCA Dinner at Dalga Restaurant on Lake Ohrid

11:30pm Depart for Skopje via bus

Tuesday, August 17th, 2010

6:15am Depart hotel for airport

7:45am Depart Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP) on chartered aircraft

11:00am Arrive at Sabiha Gökçen Airport-Istanbul

12:15pm Luncheon meeting with Jewish community leaders

2:30pm Check-in to Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

3:30pm Briefing with experts on Turkish domestic issues, public opinion, and foreign policy positions at the Ceylan Intercontinental (Citronelle Room)

- Cigdem Nas (Deputy Secretary General, IKV)
- Dr. Ahmet Han (Assistant Professor of Political Science, Istanbul University)

4:45pm Roundtable with business community representatives on U.S.-Turkey trade and investment opportunities at the Ceylan Intercontinental (Citronelle Room)

- Mehmet Sami (Board Member, ATA Invest)
- Kursat Ozkan (Regional Director, General Electric)
- Koray Arikan (Director, JP Morgan)
- Davut Okutcu (Board Member, TAIK)
- Serif Egeli (TAIK, Vice Chairman)

7:15pm Depart hotel for dinner

inimitable view of the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, and Aegean Sea. This 17-mile long waterway supplies Western and Southern Europe with oil from the Caspian Sea Region. With 50,000 vessels, among them 5,000 oil tankers, passing through the straits annually the Dardanelles are one of the world's busiest chokepoints. Çanakkale province is the site of two of the most famous battles that shaped Western civilization, the Trojan War and the Gallipoli Campaign.

Saturday, August 21, 2010

- 8:45am Meet in lobby to board bus
- 9:30am Meeting with historian at the Spice Market
- 11:00am Lecture on a Mevlid Ceremony
- 11:45am Meeting with historian at the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia
- 1:00pm Luncheon discussion at Sarnıç restaurant (ancient Roman cistern)
- 2:30pm Meeting with historian at Topkapi Palace
- 3:30pm Meeting with historian at the Grand Bazaar
- 7:15pm Depart hotel for dinner
- 8:00pm TCA Farewell Dinner aboard m/y Berrak with NGO, business community representatives, and minority community representatives
 - Ozgul Erdemli Mutlu (Communications and Environmental Policies Department, TEMA)
 - Lale Platin (Board Member, CYDD)
 - Reverend Nephon Tsimalis (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate – Istanbul)
 - Mike Mustafoglu (Founder, TransGlobal Financial Corporation & de facto honorary representative of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)
 - Demetra Mustafoglu (world-renowned opera singer of Greek-Cypriot descent)
 - Moshe Kamhi (Consul General of Israel – Istanbul)
 - Dr. Ahmet Han (Assistant Professor of Political Science, Istanbul University)
 - Dr. Ozlem Han (Professor, Middle East Technical University)
 - Teoman Onder (Representative, Chaldean/Assyrian Association)

Sunday, August 22, 2010

- 10:45am Meet in lobby to board bus to depart for airport
- 1:55pm Depart Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST) on Lufthansa Flight LH3341
- 3:55pm Arrive at Frankfurt Airport (FR)
- 5:00pm Depart Frankfurt Airport (FRA) on Lufthansa Flight LH9252
- 7:38pm Arrive at Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Explanation for change of day trip to Troy and Gallipoli on Friday, August 20th

In order for the delegation to better comprehend Turkey's juxtaposition as a bridge between East and West – connecting Europe, Asia, and the Middle East – we feel it essential for the group to travel beyond Turkey's largest and most well known cities, Istanbul and Ankara. Turkey's strategic importance lies not only its geography, but in its rich culture reflecting elements of all continents bridged.

Çanakkale province is located on the Dardanelles, the waterway that along with the Bosphorus forms the Turkish straits dividing Asia and Europe. Upon its soil two of the most famous battles that shaped Western civilization, the Trojan War and the Gallipoli Campaign, took place. The Trojan War is one of the world's first documented battles between East and West. Famously depicted in Homer's epic poem, the Iliad, the story of the Trojan War continues to span continents and generations.

This year marks the 95th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign (known in Turkey as Çanakkale savaşı). In 1915, the Allied forces mounted this operation to control the Turkish straits, capture the Ottoman capital of Istanbul, and secure a sea route to Russia. This failed campaign conducted by ANZAC troops against Ottoman forces instead resulted in about half a million casualties, marking it as one of the bloodiest battles of World War I. The Gallipoli Campaign is remembered more today as the catalyst for the birth of national consciousness among Australians, New Zealanders, and Turks. A defining moment in Turkish history -- the founder of the Turkish Republic eight years later, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, served as commander of the Turkish forces during this battle and was credited then as a hero who bravely led his forces to victory. The battle of Gallipoli is revered for bringing out the very best in all men who fought and died there. Due to the unique sense of respect that existed between the ANZACs and Turkish troops it is oft referred to as the "Gentleman's War."

**TCA August 14th-22nd 2010 Congressional Trip
Amended final list of participants and purpose**

1. Art Estopinan – Chief of Staff for Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18th FL)
2. Tim Tarpley – Legislative Director for Rep. Ted Poe (R-2nd TX)
3. John Laufer – Legislative Director for Rep. Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)
4. Joseph Heaton – Government Affairs Legislative Assistant for Rep. Michael Turner (R-3rd OH)
5. Edward Parkinson – Professional Staff Member for the House Committee on Homeland Security (R)
6. Jerr Rosenbaum – Chief of Staff for Rep. Jack Kingston (R-1st GA)
7. Bobby J. Cornett - Education and Women's Issues Legislative Assistant for Rep. Trent Franks (R-2nd AZ)
8. Craig Dulniak – Military Legislative Assistant for Rep. Steve Cohen (D-9th TN)
9. Megan Spindel – Legislative Director for Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-2nd KY)
10. Stephen Vina – Professional Staff Member for the House Committee on Homeland Security (D)
11. Angelle B. Kwemo – Counsel for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection (D)
12. Eric Bierwagen – Energy and Environment Legislative Assistant for Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT)
13. Scott Exner – Military and Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant for Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA 9th)
14. Ryan S. Thompson – Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Joe Barton (R-6th TX)
15. David Barnes – Communications Director for House Committee on Foreign Affairs (D)
16. Chris Quigley – Office Manager for Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-5th AZ)
17. Anne Meyers – Military and Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Baird (D-3rd WA)

18. Jason Miller – Legislative Assistant for the House Committee on Homeland Security
(R)

Purpose of the trip:

The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering cooperation between the United States of America and Turkey. With the initial stopover in Macedonia, the Turkish Coalition of America looks to shed light on the U.S.'s and Turkey's strong support for Macedonian aspirations of joining the European Union. The delegation will also learn how both countries are collaborating to facilitate the Macedonian government's implementation of the Ohrid Framework and foster long term peace and stability in the country. In visiting Bitola (where the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, attended military academy) and Ohrid (said to be the "Jerusalem of the Balkans"), TCA also seeks to highlight Turkey's deep historical and cultural ties to Macedonia and the Balkan region as a whole.

Continuing on to Turkey, TCA hopes to enhance participating staffers' knowledge of the U.S. – Turkey partnership through meetings with American and Turkish officials, NGO representatives, academics, students, business community representatives, and regional experts. In visiting not just the nation's capital (Ankara) and its most famous city (Istanbul) but participating in excursions and meetings in Edirne, we anticipate that participants will have a better grasp of Turkey's considerable diversity on a political, social, economic, and historical scale.

It is our great hope that participants will return from this trip having gained a new perspective and first-hand knowledge with which they may approach issues pertaining to the U.S.'s relations with Turkey and Macedonia.

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

**PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM
For Members, Officers, and Employees**

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 Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Please type form. Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 14 days before the trip commences.

Name of Traveler: John Laufer

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/Committee: Pedro R. Pierluisi

Office address: 1218 Longworth House Office Building

Phone number: (202) 225-2615

Email address of contact person: john.laufer@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet and the traveler is a Member traveling to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 14 days before the trip departure date.

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

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)

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

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: John Laufer
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish Coalition of America
3. Travel destination(s): Skopje, Bitola, Ohrid - MACEDONIA & Istanbul, Ankara, Edirne - TURKEY
4. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: Saturday, August 14th - Sunday, August 22nd
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes, name of accompanying family member: _____
c. Relationship to traveler: 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: N/A - Sponsor checked 9(a) or 9(b)
(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 individual official or representational duties:
I am an LD for an MoC who is on the Turkey Caucus, and my duties often require me to advise him on foreign
9. **FOR STAFF:** affairs issues.

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.

Date: 7/10

[Signature]
Signature of Employing Member

NOTE: This page must be submitted with your post-travel disclosure form within 15 days of your return, so you should maintain a photocopy of the completed form for your records.

**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 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. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. *You must answer every question on the form.*

1. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish Coalition of America

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 that the statement is true 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 that the statement is true 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): additional page attached with list of invitees and invitation explanation
additional page attached with list of invitees and invitation explanation

6. Dates of travel: Saturday, August 14th through Sunday, August 22nd

7. Cities of departure – destination – return: Washington D.C. - Skopje - Bitola - Ohrid - Skopje - Istanbul - Ankara - Istanbul - Edirne - Istanbul - Washington D.C.

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 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.

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. N/A – I checked 9(a) or (b) above:
 - b. One-night's lodging and meals are being offered: *or*
 - c. Two-nights' lodging and meals are being offered:
If "c" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____

11. Check one:
- I represent that a federally-registered 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**
 - N/A – trip sponsor is an institution of higher education.
12. Private sponsors must have a direct and immediate relationship to the purpose of the trip or location being visited. Describe the purpose of the trip and the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:
Purpose of the trip and role of TCA as sponsor detailed in full in attached document

13. a. Describe the mode of travel (air, rail, bus, etc.). For air travel, also indicate the type of aircraft (commercial, charter, or privately owned) and class of travel (coach, business class, first class, etc.):
Commercial airlines (Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa, and Turkish Airlines) will be utilized for transatlantic flights and domestic flights within Turkey. The class of travel on all above mentioned flights will be economy. Buses and boats will be utilized for ground transportation purposes.
- If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, provide an explanation describing why such travel is warranted: Explanation of request for chartered aircraft to transport delegation from Skopje, Macedonia to Istanbul, Turkey at 6:30am on Tuesday, August 17th detailed in attached document

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*):
- 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 *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:
 If "b" is checked, detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$100

16. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Purpose of the trip to selected locations detailed in attached document

17. Name of hotel or other lodging facility: Holiday Inn (Skopje, Macedonia); Ceylan Intercontinental (Istanbul, Turkey)
18. Cost per night of hotel or other lodging facility (approximate cost may be provided): Holiday Inn: \$200/night; Ceylan Intercontinental: \$250/night

19. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility: These hotels were selected due to their proximity to meeting sites

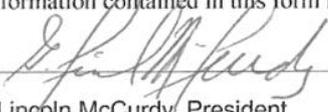
20. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<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	\$4,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00
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	\$250.00	entrance fees, historian fees
For each accompanying family member		

21. 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):

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

Signature: 

Name and title: Lincoln McCurdy, President

Organization: Turkish Coalition of America

Address: 1025 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1000

Telephone number: (202) 370-1399

Fax number: (202) 370-1398

Email Address: lmccurdy@tc-america.org

The Committee staff may contact the above individual 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)

Version date 8/2008 by Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

TCA August 14th-22nd 2010 Congressional Trip
List of participants and purpose

1. Art Estopinan – Chief of Staff for Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18th FL)
2. Tim Tarpley – Legislative Director for Rep. Ted Poe (R-2nd TX)
3. John Laufer – Legislative Director for Rep. Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)
4. Joseph Heaton – Government Affairs Legislative Assistant for Rep. Michael Turner (R-3rd OH)
5. Edward Parkinson – Professional Staff Member for the House Committee on Homeland Security (R)
6. Jerr Rosenbaum – Chief of Staff for Rep. Jack Kingston (R-1st GA)
7. Bobby J. Cornett - Education and Women's Issues Legislative Assistant for Rep. Trent Franks (R-2nd AZ)
8. Craig Dulniak – Military Legislative Assistant for Rep. Steve Cohen (D-9th TN)
9. Megan Spindel – Legislative Director for Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-2nd KY)
10. Stephen Vina – Professional Staff Member for the House Committee on Homeland Security (D)
11. Angelle B. Kwemo – Counsel for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection (D)
12. Eric Bierwagen – Energy and Environment Legislative Assistant for Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT)
13. Scott Exner – Military and Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant for Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA 9th)
14. Ryan S. Thompson – Chief of Staff for Rep. Joe Barton (R-6th TX)
15. David Barnes – Communications Director for House Committee on Foreign Affairs (D)
16. Chris Quigley – Office Manager for Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-5th AZ)
17. Anne Meyers – Military and Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Baird (D-3rd WA)

18. Jason Miller – Legislative Assistant for the House Committee on Homeland Security (R)

19. James Robertson – Professional Staff Member for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (R)

Purpose of the trip:

The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering cooperation between the United States of America and Turkey. With the initial stopover in Macedonia, the Turkish Coalition of America looks to shed light on the U.S.'s and Turkey's strong support for Macedonian aspirations of joining the European Union. The delegation will also learn how both countries are collaborating to facilitate the Macedonian government's implementation of the Ohrid Framework and foster long term peace and stability in the country. In visiting Bitola (where the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, attended military academy) and Ohrid (said to be the "Jerusalem of the Balkans"), TCA also seeks to highlight Turkey's deep historical and cultural ties to Macedonia and the Balkan region as a whole.

Continuing on to Turkey, TCA hopes to enhance participating staffers' knowledge of the U.S. – Turkey partnership through meetings with American and Turkish officials, NGO representatives, academics, students, business community representatives, and regional experts. In visiting not just the nation's capital (Ankara) and its most famous city (Istanbul) but participating in excursions and meetings in Edirne, we anticipate that participants will have a better grasp of Turkey's considerable diversity on a political, social, economic, and historical scale.

It is our great hope that participants will return from this trip having gained a new perspective and first-hand knowledge with which they may approach issues pertaining to the U.S.'s relations with Turkey and Macedonia.

TCA-Sponsored Congressional Staffer Trip to Turkey & Macedonia

August 14th-22nd, 2010

(Option 1: With chartered flight request on morning of August 17th. Explanation for this request enclosed)

Saturday, August 14th, 2010

5:40pm Depart from Dulles International Airport (IAD) on Austrian Airlines Flight 94

Sunday, August 15th, 2010

8:40am Arrive Vienna International (VIE) Airport

10:55am Depart from Vienna International Airport (VIE) on Austrian Airlines Flight 779

12:30pm Arrive Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP)

1:30pm Check-in to Holiday Inn

3:00pm Meeting with NDI representatives on Macedonia

4:30pm Meeting with historian in Skopje at Daut Pasha Aman mosque (now converted into gallery), grave of Goce Velchev, Jewish Holocaust Memorial Center, and house of Mother Theresa's birth

7:30pm Dinner at Stonebridge restaurant with NGO reps and members of the press (off the record)

Monday, August 16th, 2010

8:30am Briefing with U.S. Ambassador or DCM

10:00am Brunch briefing with Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister

12:15pm Board bus for Bitola

1:45pm Meeting with historian at military academy (now museum) attended by Atatürk in 1880s

3:45pm Board bus for Ohrid – known as the “Jerusalem of the Balkans”

5:00pm Meeting with historian at Tsar Samoil Fortress, St. John the Baptist Church, and Ohrid Carsija

8:00pm Reception and TCA dinner hosted by His Excellency President Gjorge Ivanov at his Presidential Villa

Tuesday, August 17th, 2010

7:30am Depart Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP) on chartered aircraft

9:30am Arrive Istanbul Atatürk International Airport (IST)

10:30am Roundtable with minority community representatives (i.e. Jewish, Armenian, Greek, and Alevi) at TCF

12:30pm Luncheon briefing with think tank experts on Turkish domestic issues, public opinion, and foreign policy positions

2:00pm Check-in to Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

3:15pm Roundtable with business community representatives on U.S.-Turkey trade and investment opportunities at the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF)

7:30pm Dinner with members of the press (off the record)

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

8:00am Depart from Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST) on Turkish Airlines Flight 2108

9:05am Arrive at Ankara Esenboğa Airport (ESB)

9:45am Wreath laying ceremony at Atatürk's Mausoleum (Anıtkabir)

10:45am Meeting with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

12:30pm Lunch with U.S. Ambassador or DCM

2:00pm Meeting with NGO representatives (from i.e. Uçan Süpürge, EREN, TEPAV, REC Turkey) on Turkish domestic issues (environmental, women's rights)

6:10pm Depart from Ankara Esenboğa Airport (ESB) on Turkish Airlines Flight 2139

7:30pm Arrive Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST)

8:30pm Arrive Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

Thursday, August 19, 2010

10:00am Briefing by President of TCA and Executive Director of the Turkish Cultural Foundation at TCF

- 11:30am Lunch and cultural lecture at the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) by Dr. Nurhan Atasoy
- 2:00pm Roundtable with business community representatives on U.S.-Turkey trade and investment opportunities at TCF
- 4:30pm Meeting with historian on the ancient Anatolian practice of Ebru
- 8:00pm Dinner and discussion with Turkish university officials, faculty members, and civil society representatives

Friday, August 20, 2010

- 8:30am Depart hotel via bus for Edirne
- 10:30am Meeting with historian and Jewish community members at Lüleburgaz Synagogue
- 11:30am Meeting with historian at Selimiye Mosque (masterpiece of famed Mimar Sinan), Üç Şerefeli Mosque (known for its three dramatically different minarets), and Bulgarian Church of St. George
- 1:30pm Lunch
- 2:30pm Meeting with historian at Tower of Justice and Meriç Bridge
- 3:30pm Meeting with historian at Beyazid II Külliye Health Museum
- 7:15pm Arrive Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

Saturday, August 21, 2010

- 8:45am Meet in lobby to board bus
- 9:30am Meeting with historian at the Spice Market
- 11:00am Lecture on a Mevlid Ceremony
- 11:45am Meeting with historian at the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia
- 1:00pm Luncheon discussion at Sarnıç restaurant (ancient Roman cistern)
- 2:30pm Meeting with historian at Topkapi Palace
- 3:30pm Meeting with historian at the Grand Bazaar
- 6:45pm Depart hotel for dinner
- 7:30pm TCA Farewell Dinner aboard m/y Surreya with NGO and business community representatives

Sunday, August 22, 2010

- 10:45am Meet in lobby to board bus to depart for airport
- 1:55pm Depart Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST) on Lufthansa Flight LH3341
- 3:55pm Arrive at Frankfurt Airport (FR)
- 5:00pm Depart Frankfurt Airport (FRA) on Lufthansa Flight LH9252
- 7:38pm Arrive at Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Request for approval of chartered flight from Skopje, Macedonia to Istanbul, Turkey on Tuesday, August 17th

A chartered flight is requested to transport the delegation from Skopje, Macedonia to Istanbul, Turkey at 6:30am on Tuesday, August 17th.

The only commercial option that flies from Skopje to Istanbul with arrival that same day is Turkish Airlines. That flight arrives in Istanbul at 4:15pm. We would like to note that the cost of chartered airfare per participant will not exceed that of business class airfare on the Turkish Airlines commercial flight.

A key component of our Congressional trips is that we wish to provide delegates with as complete a picture of the country as we can within the granted window of travel. A large part of Turkey's character as a country, largely a part of its Ottoman heritage, is that its citizens hail from all three major religions and have ethnic roots that stretch from Europe to Asia. In order to truly understand Turkey and its makeup, we feel it essential for Congressional participants to meet with minority community leaders (i.e. Jewish, Armenian, Greek, Kurdish, and Alevi communities), all of whom are based in Istanbul. Unfortunately, it appears that Jewish community leaders are only available to meet with us the morning of Tuesday, August 17th.

We feel this trip to Macedonia and Turkey is timely and will help to better inform participants of the status of U.S. partnership with both countries in addition to the state of trilateral relations. Accordingly, we have submitted an alternative itinerary that we hope you will consider should our request for chartered airfare not be approved.

TCA-Sponsored Congressional Staffer Trip to Turkey & Macedonia
August 14th-22nd, 2010

(Option 2: Please consider if chartered flight request not approved)

Saturday, August 14th, 2010

5:40pm Depart from Dulles International Airport (IAD) on Austrian Airlines Flight 94

Sunday, August 15th, 2010

8:40am Arrive Vienna International (VIE) Airport
10:55am Depart from Vienna International Airport (VIE) on Austrian Airlines Flight 779
12:30pm Arrive Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP)
1:30pm Check-in to Holiday Inn
3:00pm Meeting with NDI representatives on Macedonia
4:30pm Meeting with historian in Skopje at Daut Pasha Aman mosque (now converted into gallery), grave of Goce Velchev, Jewish Holocaust Memorial Center, and house of Mother Theresa's birth
7:30pm Dinner at Stonebridge restaurant with NGO reps and members of the press (off the record)

Monday, August 16th, 2010

8:30am Briefing with U.S. Ambassador or DCM
10:00am Brunch briefing with Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister
12:15pm Board bus for Bitola
1:45pm Meeting with historian at military academy (now museum) attended by Atatürk in 1880s
3:45pm Board bus for Ohrid – known as the “Jerusalem of the Balkans”
5:00pm Meeting with historian at Tsar Samoil Fortress, St. John the Baptist Church, and Ohrid Carsija
8:00pm Reception and TCA dinner hosted by His Excellency President Gjorge Ivanov at his Presidential Villa

Tuesday, August 17th, 2010

10:45am Meet in the lobby to board bus for airport
1:50pm Depart Skopje Alexander the Great Airport (SKP) on Turkish Airlines Flight 1004
4:15pm Arrive Istanbul Atatürk International Airport (IST)
5:30pm Check-in to Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel
7:30pm Dinner with members of the press (off the record)

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

8:00am Depart from Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST) on Turkish Airlines Flight 2108
9:05am Arrive at Ankara Esenboğa Airport (ESB)
9:45am Wreath laying ceremony at Atatürk's Mausoleum (Anıtkabir)
10:45am Meeting with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12:30pm Lunch with U.S. Ambassador or DCM
2:00pm Meeting with think tank experts (from i.e. Uçan Süpürge, EREN, TEPAV, REC Turkey) on Turkish domestic issues (environmental, women's rights)
6:10pm Depart from Ankara Esenboğa Airport (ESB) on Turkish Airlines Flight 2139
7:30pm Arrive Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST)
8:30pm Arrive Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

Thursday, August 19, 2010

10:00am Briefing by President of TCA and Executive Director of the Turkish Cultural Foundation at TCF
11:30am Lunch and cultural lecture at the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) by Dr. Nurhan Atasoy
2:00pm Roundtable with business community representatives on U.S.-Turkey trade and investment opportunities at TCF
4:30pm Meeting with historian on the ancient Anatolian practice of Ebru
8:00pm Dinner and discussion with Turkish university officials, faculty members, and civil

society representatives

Friday, August 20, 2010

- 8:30am Depart hotel via bus for Edirne
- 10:30am Meeting with historian and Jewish community members at Lüleburgaz Synagogue
- 11:30am Meeting with historian at Selimiye Mosque (masterpiece of famed Mimar Sinan), Üç Şerefeli Mosque (known for its three dramatically different minarets), and Bulgarian Church of St. George
- 1:30pm Lunch
- 2:30pm Meeting with historian at Tower of Justice and Meriç Bridge
- 3:30pm Meeting with historian at Beyazid II Külliye Health Museum
- 7:15pm Arrive Ceylan Intercontinental Hotel

Saturday, August 21, 2010

- 8:45am Meet in lobby to board bus
- 9:30am Meeting with historian at the Spice Market
- 11:00am Lecture on a Mevlid Ceremony
- 11:45am Meeting with historian at the Blue Mosque and Haghia Sophia
- 1:00pm Luncheon discussion at Sarnıç restaurant (ancient Roman cistern)
- 2:30pm Meeting with historian at Topkapi Palace
- 3:30pm Meeting with historian at the Grand Bazaar
- 6:45pm Depart hotel for dinner
- 7:30pm TCA Farewell Dinner aboard m/y Surreya with NGO and business community representatives

Sunday, August 22, 2010

- 10:45am Meet in lobby to board bus to depart for airport
- 1:55pm Depart Istanbul Atatürk Airport (IST) on Lufthansa Flight LH3341
- 3:55pm Arrive at Frankfurt Airport (FR)
- 5:00pm Depart Frankfurt Airport (FRA) on Lufthansa Flight LH9252
- 7:38pm Arrive at Dulles International Airport (IAD)

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIR

BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
G. K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

DANIEL J. TAYLOR,
COUNSEL TO THE CHAIR

R. BLAKE CHISAM,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

JO BONNER, ALABAMA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA
GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI
MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS

KELLE A. STRICKLAND,
COUNSEL TO THE RANKING
REPUBLICAN MEMBER

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

August 6, 2010

Mr. John Laufer
Office of the Honorable Pedro Pierluisi
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Laufer:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct hereby approves your proposed trip to Macedonia and Turkey scheduled for August 14 to 22, 2010, sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

This approval permits you to accept the charter aircraft transport paid for by TCA for the one-way flight from Skopje, Macedonia, to Istanbul, Turkey, on August 17, 2010. Pursuant to the Committee's *Travel Guidelines and Regulations*, issued on February 20, 2007, the use of charter aircraft for officially-connected travel is generally prohibited. The Committee, however, will grant an exemption to this restriction in limited circumstances, such as when the private sponsor demonstrates "that the cost of such travel does not exceed the cost of available business-class transportation."¹ According to the Private Sponsor Form:

The only commercial option that flies from Skopje to Istanbul with arrival that same day is Turkish Airlines. That flight arrives in Istanbul at 4:45pm. We would like to note that the cost of chartered airfare per participant will not exceed that of business class airfare on the Turkish Airlines commercial flight.

Further, additional information submitted to the Committee by TCA indicates that the per person cost of the charter aircraft is approximately \$350. Based on publicly available information, the business class airfare is approximately \$400. Thus, we note that it appears that the cost of the charter aircraft travel does not exceed the cost of available business-class transportation for comparable routes. Therefore, it would be permissible for you to accept charter aircraft transport paid for by TCA, in connection with your proposed trip to Macedonia and Turkey.

¹ Because the charter flight is scheduled specifically for House employee use, the value of the use of the aircraft is the cost of chartering the same or similar aircraft for that flight. See *2008 House Ethics Manual* at 120.

Mr. John Laufer
Page 2

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 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.

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



Zoe Lofgren
Chair

Sincerely,



Jo Bonner
Ranking Republican Member

ZL/JB:slo