

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jul 31, 2009 09:57

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-09-0390 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/30/2009
ACTION OFFICE: CFO

AUTHOR: SEN Harry Reid
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Requests that NRC reject or reverse any agency policy regarding official travel for our employees that discriminates against specific US cities, particularly Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack., EDO, RF

LETTER DATE: 07/28/2009
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Chairman Correspondence

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 08/21/2009 **DATE SIGNED:**

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

July 28, 2009

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to request that you reject or reverse any agency policy regarding official travel for your employees that discriminates against specific U.S. cities, particularly Las Vegas and Reno. It has come to my attention that some agencies have adopted guidelines that identify cities also known as resort or vacation destinations as inappropriate venues for official agency travel and meetings. I was glad to learn recently that the White House shares my strong view that decisions concerning government travel, or where to locate official meetings, should be determined by a cost-benefit analysis as opposed to perceptions about a particular location. A letter explaining White House policy is included with this correspondence.

While I am proud of the allure Las Vegas and Reno possess for vacationers, organizations of all sizes and purposes have chosen our state as a destination for their official meetings because it offers them value and convenience. It's therefore no surprise that over the last two decades Nevada has become a world-class destination for business conventions. Room rates are relatively low (hovering around \$90 per room on average in Las Vegas), convention and meeting space is plentiful, travel in and out of Nevada is convenient, and amenities are unmatched by any other location in the U.S.

These are the factors that should drive decisions on travel by the federal government; if taken into proper account, I am confident they would bring official government meetings to Nevada. Now more than ever, taxpayer dollars need to be spent wisely and should maximize benefit to the government. By following these principles – and ignoring ill-conceived biases or perceptions about resort destinations – our government decision makers will serve the interests of all taxpayers, and Nevada will receive its deserved share of meeting-and-convention business from federal agencies.

I respectfully request that you respond to this letter and confirm that your agency has adopted a travel policy consistent with the one articulated by the President's chief of staff in the attached letter.

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "H".

HARRY REID
United States Senator
Nevada

Encl

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

Thank you for conveying your concern about any suggestion that federal policy, explicitly or implicitly, prohibit government meetings and conferences in prominent American cities such as Las Vegas or other communities known for attracting vacationers. I agree that federal policy should not dictate the location where such government events are held.

You are as aware as anyone of the toll that the current economic downturn is having on working families and communities nationwide. Your leadership in passing the Economic Recovery Act earlier this year speaks to your commitment to, and effectiveness in, helping communities like Las Vegas and industries like tourism rebound.

Our view on the issue of government travel is not focused on specific destinations, but rather on the justification for and the cost/benefit ratio of the individual exercise. There is no doubt in my mind that the Federal government should lead by example in tightening its belt and justifying its expenditures as we meet the priority challenge of reducing the national deficit and the debt. For me, the test of government travel is what will be accomplished by that travel and whether the cost to the government is reasonable as opposed to other options.

Again, thank you for raising this important issue. I hope this letter helps clarify our view of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahm", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Rahm Emanuel

U.S. Senator Harry Reid

Senator for Nevada, Majority Leader

528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

PHONE (202) 224 - 3542
FAX (202) 224 - 7327



FAX TRANSMISSION

FAX TO:	Rebecca Schmitt
FAX NUMBER:	(301) 415 - 8571
FROM:	Caren Street / Mark Wejten
DATE:	7/29
SUBJECT:	Agency Travel Policy
TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover):	4

COMMENTS:

Disclaimer: The document(s) accompanying this cover sheet may contain confidential information. The information is intended only for the use of the recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or any other action involving the contents of this transmitted information is not allowed. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately at the telephone number provided on this sheet.