

Powell, Amy

From: Powell, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 1:35 PM
To: McDonough, Alexander (Reid)
Subject: Letter to Sen. Reid
Attachments: Tab B 09-01-09 Ltr to SEN Reid.pdf

Hi Alex -

FYI, attached is the response to Sen. Reid's travel policy inquiry. Hard copy should arrive shortly.

Amy

Amy Powell
Associate Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Congressional Affairs
Phone: 301-415-1673

A/50



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 1, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

In response to your letter of July 28, 2009, I want to confirm that the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does not have a policy in place that prohibits or discourages employees from traveling to specific destinations in the U. S. to conduct official business or attend meetings. The NRC's travel policy conforms to the Federal Travel Regulation. Our focus is on authorizing travel that is in the agency's best interest and is cost beneficial, not on whether or not a city is known as a resort or vacation destination.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Gregory B. Jaczko



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If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Gregory B. Jaczko

Gregory B. Jaczko

Originating Office: CFO
REF: CORR-09-0072
Chairman Correspondence

ADAMS Accession No.: ML092230118

OFC	SECY	OCA	OCM/GBJ	OCM/GBJ	
NAME	SMcKelvin	David Decker // RSchmidt	JBatkin <i>John Manning</i>	GBJaczko	
DATE	08/27/2009	08/27/2009	08/24/2009	08/1/2009	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

John Manning

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.

7/31...To CFO to Prepare Response for Signature of the Chairman...Due date: 8/21...
OCA to Ack., EDO, RF....09-0390...CHAIRMAN CORRESPONDENCE

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Reid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H" and "R".

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 stylized flourish extending from the end.

Rahm Emanuel