



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Fact-Finding Mission Sanctioning Application

This form is used to determine if the provisions of ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H)(i) are applicable. This statute permits a public official to accept reasonable food, travel and lodging while representing state government on an officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission.

Applicant: Please provide all of the following information:

Event Date: 9/14-18/2025

Application Date: 9/10/2025

Event Name: 50 States One Israel Delegation

Event Location/Venue: Various locations throughout the State of Israel (see itinerary)

Name of Event Sponsor/Host: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel

Invitees: Rep. David Gombert

Public Policy Issue:

- Application **must** include a written opinion from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission concluding that the event is permitted.
- Please attach *all information* that you have about this event including but not limited to itinerary or agenda, presenters, activities, meals, lodging and travel *substantiating the nature of the event*.
- Sanctioning **does not change** the requirement that the public official report the event on their SEI form.

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY:

- ☒ Letter from OGEC concludes that the activity is a permitted fact-finding mission.
- ☒ Activity is for the purpose of developing state commerce, or is for public policy related educational purposes, or is to develop intergovernmental relations or assistance.
- ☒ Any potential non-conforming aspect(s) are incidental/secondary to the main purpose of the event.

Based upon the information submitted to me, this event is hereby:

☒ **Officially Sanctioned**

☐ **Denied**

Chief Clerk

9/10/25

Date



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1680

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

E-mail: mail@ogec.oregon.gov

Website: www.oregon.gov/ogec

September 9, 2025

Sent via email

Honorable Representative David Gomberg
c/o Luke Harkins, Chief of Staff
900 Court Street, H-480
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Advice No. 25-575I

Dear Representative Gomberg,

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on September 2, 2025, which presented a question regarding the application of Oregon Government Ethics Law to a public official accepting payment of international travel and related expenses. This analysis and advice is being offered under the authority provided in ORS 244.284 as guidance on how the current provisions of Oregon Government Ethics Law may apply to the specific circumstances that have been presented.

In your request for advice, you explain that you have been asked to participate in the "50 States, One Israel," a bipartisan delegation to Israel from September 13th to September 18th, 2025. The trip is being sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel, which is covering the costs of transit, lodging, and meals. The trip aims to connect legislators with communities and prominent Israeli leadership to learn more about potential trade opportunities. Your request for guidance asks whether you could accept the invitation and the paid travel expenses under one of the gift exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

Under most circumstances when a public official is offered food, lodging and travel expenses at no cost to the public official, it would be considered a gift as defined in ORS 244.010(7)(a); however, ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) provides a gift exception for reasonable food, travel or lodging expenses provided to a public official, or to a relative, household member or staff member accompanying the public official, when the public official represents state government, a local government or a special government body, in: (i) an officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission; or (ii) officially designated negotiations, or economic development activities, where receipt of the expenses is approved in advance.

In order for the gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) to apply, there are three criteria that must be met. First, the public official must be representing state government, a local government or a special government body. Second, the purpose of the trip must be for trade promotion or a fact-finding mission, or for negotiations or economic development activities, where receipt of expenses is approved in advance. A fact-finding mission or trip is defined as "any activity related to a cultural or educational purpose, or any activity aimed at providing intergovernmental assistance, such as for the purpose of international aid or sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official's duties." [OAR 199-005-

0001(2)]. In this case, it appears that you and your staff would be representing state government on this trip. Based on the information provided, it appears that the trip has an educational and intergovernmental purpose. The trip appears to provide a cultural exchange and opportunity to strengthen intergovernmental relationship between Isreal and members of the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the trip appears to meet the definition of a “fact finding mission or trip”.

The third criteria under ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) is that the trip and your receipt of the paid expenses be officially sanctioned or designated. This requires written approval in advance by a state or local public body or by a person authorized by the public body to provide that approval. For members of the Legislative Assembly, the written approval must be provided by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the designated majority or minority leaders of either chamber or appointed committees of the Legislative Assembly, unless the public body determines otherwise. [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(C)]. For legislative staff members, the written approval must be provided by the staffer’s supervisor (i.e., Representative Gomberg). [ORS 199-005-0020(3)(b)(A)].

Thus, ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H)(i) would allow you to accept the offer from the Consulate General of Isreal to cover the cost of food, travel, and lodging expenses for the fact-finding trip to Israel, so long as you obtain advance written approval that the trip is “officially sanctioned” or “officially designated” from the appropriate authorities within the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with rules adopted by that body.

Finally, as a legislator required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), you will be required to report the aggregate value of any paid expenses provided under ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) on your 2025 SEI. As the source of the paid travel expenses, the Consulate General of Isreal should provide you with a notice or a summary of the expenses paid.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any additional questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Fenstermaker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Casey Fenstermaker
Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator

*****DISCLAIMER*****

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This opinion offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This opinion is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



July 8th, 2025

י"ב תמוז תשפ"ה

Hon. David Gomberg
Representative, Speaker Pro Tempore
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Hon. Gomberg,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest, I am honored to invite you to participate in "50 States, One Israel", a landmark bipartisan delegation of senior state legislators from across the United States.

This historic five-day study tour will take place between September 13–18, and will bring together over 200 legislators from all 50 states, representing both the Democratic and Republican parties, for an in-depth exploration of Israel's leadership, society, heritage, and spirit of innovation.

Participants will gain firsthand insight into the complexities and opportunities facing Israel today through high-level meetings with Israeli decision-makers, site visits to key national and cultural landmarks in Jerusalem and beyond, and direct engagement with experts in political, social, and academic fields.

This journey offers a rare opportunity to deepen understanding, foster dialogue, and strengthen relationships between Israel and the American people—state by state.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide:

- Roundtrip economy airfare from New York to Tel Aviv (including domestic U.S. flights to NYC)
- All in-country transportation, accommodations, meals, and guided programming

To confirm your participation and begin the registration process, please reply with the attached form.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Kate Tyminska at Gov-Affairs@sf.mfa.gov.il.

We look forward to welcoming you to Israel for this meaningful and impactful experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco Sermoneta", written over a horizontal line.

Ambassador Marco Sermoneta
Consul General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest

Participant Information Form

Please complete the following form and return it.

Personal Information

- Full Name (as in passport): _____
- Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): _____
- Gender: Male / Female / Other (circle one)
- Passport Number: _____
- Issuing Country: _____
- Passport Expiry Date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____
- Nationality: _____

Contact Information

- Email Address: _____
- Phone Number (Mobile): _____
- Emergency Contact Name: _____
- Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

Dietary Restrictions and Preferences

- Do you have any dietary restrictions (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free, kosher, halal)? Please specify:
- Do you have any food allergies? Please list:

Health and Mobility

- Do you have any medical conditions or mobility restrictions we should be aware of? If yes, please specify:
- Are you currently taking any medications that may require special attention during the trip? If yes, please specify:

Additional Information

- Do you have any special requests or considerations we should be aware of?

By signing below, you confirm that the information provided is accurate and complete.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



50 States One Israel Delegation- Itinerary

Sunday, September 14th

19:50- Landing at Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport (TLV)- (El Al 14 from Boston).

VIP Airport clearance

21:30- Arrive at hotel (King David and Inbal). Dinner.

Monday, September 15th

08:00-11:00- Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Western Wall.

11:30-13:30- Yad Vashem - the World Holocaust Remembrance Center- including a Guided tour in English of the Holocaust History Museum by a Senior Yad Vashem guide and a Memorial Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance/

13:45-15:00- Lunch at hotels.

15:30-16:45- Briefing by the Foreign Minister Gideon Saar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

17:00-19:30 visit at the Knesset and official welcome ceremony with the Speaker of the Knesset, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

20:00-22:00- "A Jerusalem Night"- festive opening Reception.

Tuesday, September 16th

09:30-11:30- Tour of the Communities Impacted on October 7th in the south

12:00-12:30: visit the Nova Memorial Site.

13:30-14:30 Memorial Ceremony and Tree Planting- Ofakim.

14:30-16:00- lunch with local youth.

05:30pm- Arrive at Hotel, Tel Aviv (Dan Tel Aviv or The Jaffa).

18:30-19:30- Dinner at the hotel.



Wednesday, September 17th

8:30-17:00- Israeli innovation Day:

Including:

- a Tour at the Peres Peace Center or Start up nation Central
- meetings at leading Israeli companies and NGO's
- lunch at a local restaurant

19:30-21:30- Presidential Dinner hosted by the President of the state of Israel (including Celebrating 5 years to the Abraham Accords)

Thursday, September 18th

09:00-11:00- Strategic Briefing by the Foreign Minister Gideon Saar at Peduel

13:30-15:30 Closing Reception with the U.S Ambassador to Israel

16:00-20:00 Free time

20:00- Check in to flight at the hotel

00:05- Departure on flight LY003 to JFK .