



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: June 9-14, 2024 Application Date: May 31, 2024
Event Name: Oregon to Denmark Industrial Symbiosis Study Tour
Event Location/Venue: Denmark

Name of Event Sponsor/Host: The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure (CSI), in partnership with the Scan Design Foundation (SDF)

Invitees: Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly, Business Oregon, various private sector representatives.

Public Policy Issue: Industrial and agricultural symbiosis.

- 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

May 31, 2024

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

February 20, 2024

Rhys Roth, Executive Director
Center for Sustainable Infrastructure
101 Capitol Way N., Suite 301
Olympia, Washington 98501

Re: Advice Number 24-0561

Dear Mr. Roth:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request for guidance as to the application of Oregon Government Ethics laws found in ORS Chapter 244, with regard to the acceptance of paid expenses offered to a public official. The advice and analysis that follows is 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 circumstances you have presented.

You have explained that the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure (CSI), in partnership with the Scan Design Foundation (SDF), is looking to invite members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly, as well as Business Oregon and private sector representatives, to an educational tour of Denmark. The "Oregon to Denmark Industrial Symbiosis Study Tour" is scheduled to take place June 9 – 14, 2024. The tour will be to study businesses in Denmark that practice industrial and agricultural symbiosis, where waste streams like heat and water are captured and reused, resulting in financial and environmental benefits. Based on the information provided, SDF will be offering to pay for participant expenses, such as food, travel, and lodging. For purposes of this advice, SDF will be considered the organizer of the event and will be the entity inviting public officials/Legislators to attend.

You have asked whether invited Oregon public officials/Legislators could accept paid expenses offered by SDF for attendance at the event. I understand from the stated facts that the event will be educational in nature and that Representatives Helm and Owens are working with CSI/SDF to identify potentially interested Oregon public officials and Legislators who should be offered an invitation. SDF is listed in the Washington State Secretary of State records as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. This fact is important as it is determinative of which gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b) may apply as further explained below.

The Oregon Gift Clause, ORS 244.025(1), provides that a public official may not solicit or receive any gift with an aggregate value in excess of \$50 in a calendar year from a source that



could reasonably be known to have a legislative or administrative interest in the public official's actions, decisions or votes. ORS 244.020(7)(b) provides a number of gift exceptions – items that do not qualify as gifts and therefore would not be subject to the Gift Clause. There are two specific exceptions that could allow Oregon public officials/Legislators to accept reasonable expenses to attend the SDF event while acting in their official capacity: specifically, ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) and ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) provides a gift exception for reasonable expenses paid for a public official's attendance at a convention, fact-finding mission or trip, conference or other meeting if the public official is scheduled to deliver a speech, make a presentation, participate on a panel or represent state government, a local government or a special government body. For this exception to apply, the expenses must be paid by the federal government, a state or local government, a Native American tribe, a membership organization to which the public body pays dues, or a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

OAR 199-005-0001(2) states that A "fact finding mission or trip" is 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. The sponsor of a fact finding mission should be directly and immediately associated with the event or location being visited.

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) is similar in that it 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. As provided in the Oregon Administrative Rules, OAR 199-005-0020(3), the following conditions must be met before the offer of paid expenses may be accepted by the public official:

- The purpose for the activity must be either for an officially sanctioned trade promotion or fact-finding trip/mission or for officially designated negotiations or economic development activities.
- "Officially sanctioned or officially designated" requires written approval 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, that written approval must be from 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.

Based on the information provided, it appears the event in Denmark would be considered a fact-finding trip and the expenses would be paid by a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Therefore, it appears that the gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) could apply to allow Oregon public officials/Legislators to accept reasonable expenses for food, travel or lodging from SDF to attend the Denmark study tour.

Finally, legislators are required to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest (SEI). ORS 244.060(5) and (6) require SEI filers to identify all expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 received during the preceding calendar year when participating in a convention, mission, trip or other meeting described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) or ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). The sources paying the expenses for these fact-finding missions or trips will need to provide the public officials/Legislators with written notification of the expenditures. For the exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F), the source of the expenditures must provide written notice to the public official within 10 days. [ORS 244.100].

Again, thank you for reaching out to us. It is very much appreciated. If you have any additional questions regarding the application of Oregon Government Ethics law, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers
Executive Director

SVM/mjw

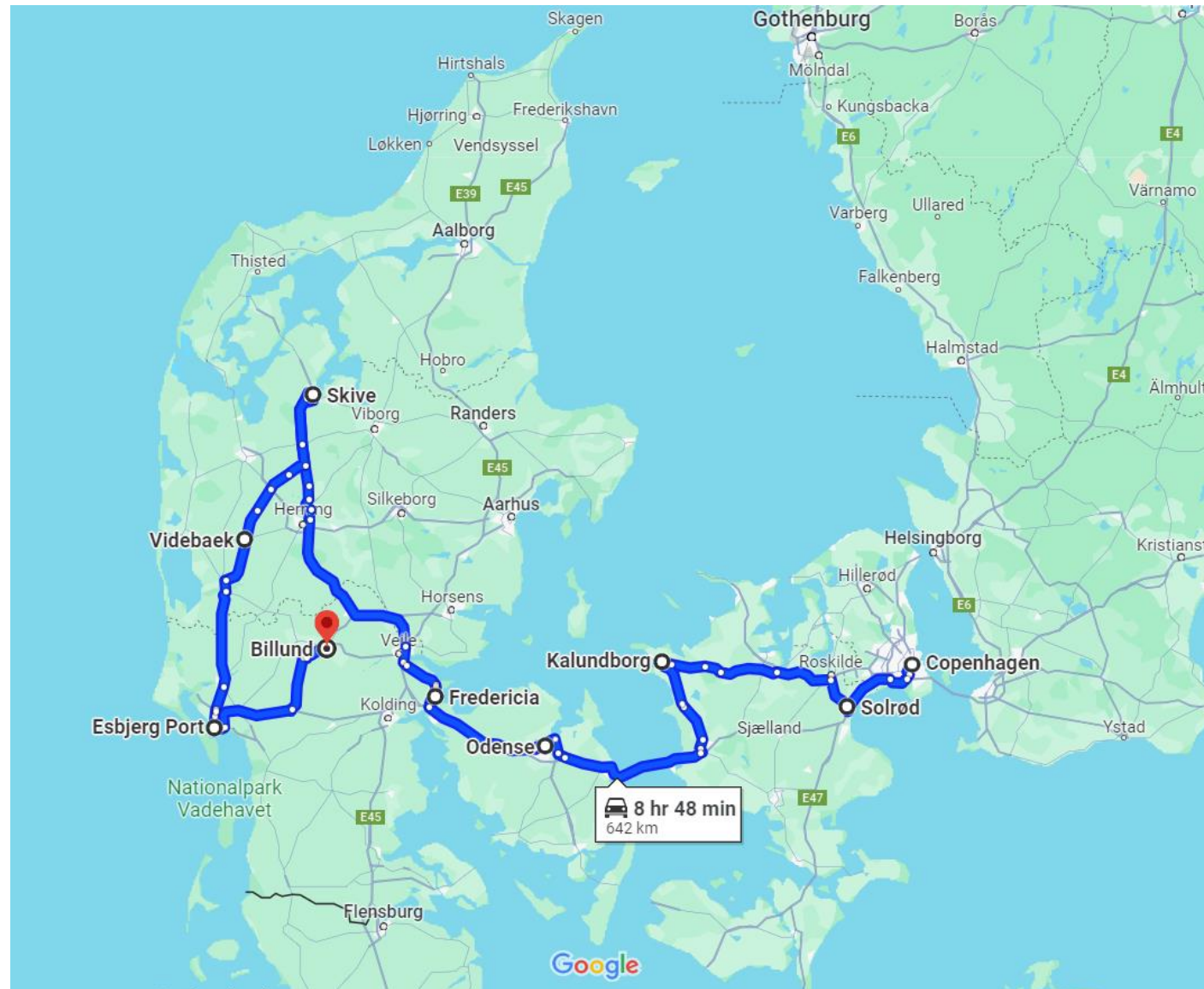
****Disclaimer****

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.

OREGON-TO-DENMARK INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS STUDY TOUR

June 9-15, 2024

DRAFT



Draft

Map of Oregon-to-Denmark Study Tour

Sunday

Delegates arrive in Copenhagen for orientation and a Welcome Dinner.

Monday

Morning

Introduction to Industrial Symbiosis in Denmark

Presentations by State of Green; Confederation of Danish Industry; Danish Energy Agency; Ministry of Food, Ag and Fisheries

Noon

Danish Agriculture & Food Council

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council represents the farming and food industries of Denmark including companies, trade and farmers' associations. Agriculture and food is Denmark's largest competence cluster, employing some 186,000 people and exporting agricultural products, food and equipment to an annual value of around € 20 billion. THE DAFC is working "for a Danish food industry that is even more climate-efficient and that is climate-neutral by 2050."

Afternoon

Solrød Biogas: Biogas, District Heating, and Public-Private Collaboration

Solrød Biogas utilizes over 190,000 tons of biomass feedstocks a year from several local industries and waste streams to produce heat and electricity to replace fossil fuels, along with other key products. Major bio-feedstocks include lemon-derived pectin and carrageenan from CPKelco, eluate (biotech waste from lactic acid production) from ChrHansen, as well as biopulp, manure from local livestock farmers, and seaweed overload from local beaches.

Tuesday

Morning

Kalundborg Symbiosis: Welcome & Introduction

The Kalundborg Symbiosis is considered the world's pioneer of industrial symbiosis. Launched 50 years ago, the collaboration has grown to involve 18 companies and public operators, sharing surplus energy, water, and material resources. Local benefits include: \$30 million annual economic benefit, 600,000 tons of CO2 savings, and 60,000 tons of material cycled, in a city of just 17,000 people.

Noon

Meliora Bio: Turning Wheat Straw into Bioethanol

Meliora Bio Denmark represents a significant advancement in the field of industrial symbiosis, focusing on the innovative use of biorefinery technologies to convert agricultural waste into valuable bioproducts. This initiative demonstrates a sustainable approach to waste management, energy production, and material utilization, aligning with global efforts to promote circular economy principles

Afternoon

Kalundborg Utility: Heart of the Symbiosis

This unique multi-utility is now central to the Kalundborg Symbiosis, supplying local industry and its 50,000 customers with: Drinking water; Process water; Cooling water; Wastewater treatment; District heating.

Wednesday

Morning Novozymes: Site tour & Presentation

Novozyymes is one of the world's largest producers of biological solutions and suppliers of enzymes and microbial technology. Their enzymes enable higher crop yields in agriculture, laundry at lower temperatures, energy and chemical savings in manufacturing processes, and renewable fuels. The enzymes are produced in a fermentation process based on agricultural raw materials, such as sugar, starch and protein. We will tour Novozyymes biogas complex in which biomass 'waste' streams from enzyme production are converted into energy and fertilizers.

Afternoon Nature Energy

Nature Energy stands as a beacon of innovation in the field of sustainable energy production, particularly through its pioneering work in biogas production. By transforming organic waste into valuable biogas, Nature Energy exemplifies an effective model of industrial symbiosis, where waste products from one process become the raw materials for another, creating a circular economy that benefits the environment, economy, and society. In 2022, Nature Energy treated 4.7 million tonnes of biomass waste from agriculture, industry and homes, producing enough renewable natural gas to heat 160,000 homes.

Thursday

Morning Triangle Energy Alliance & Crossbridge Energy

The Triangle Energy Alliance (TENA) is an ambitious collaboration centered in the heart of Denmark. Energy facility operators, specialists, and seven visionary municipalities seek to pave the way for sustainable e-fuels, such as hydrogen and methanol, based on Power to X-technologies. Industrial symbiosis is integral to the TENA partnership with several companies in the Triangle Area aiming to collaborate to refine products to individual and shared benefit. Collaboration in this context makes energy production and utilization even more resource and cost-efficient.

Noon Carlsberg Brewery: A Poster Child for Recycled Process Water

Carlsberg's brewery in Fredericia has become a world leader in recycling process water (up to 90%), while reducing water consumption per bottle of beer produced by half. Moreover, warm water is recirculated contributing to a 10% decrease in energy consumption.

Afternoon GreenLab Skive: Circular Industrial Park

Greenlab in Skive, Denmark is a remarkably successful clean and circular industrial park that has quickly emerged as a globally significant model for industrial symbiosis. In a few short years, Greenlab has attracted \$430 million in public and private investment (mostly private) to build six major industrial facilities, supplying these producers with carbon-free power, heat, steam, water, instrumental air, and nitrogen. Infrastructure to supply or deliver to market clean hydrogen, methanol, and recovered CO₂ is in development.

Friday

Morning

Arla Foods Ingredients

Arla Food Ingredients converts leftovers from cheese production into an array of high-value products, in the world's largest whey protein and lactose factory.

Noon

Esbjerg: Denmark's Energy Transition Metropolis

The municipality of Esbjerg has been the energy metropolis of Denmark for 50 years. It is a future-focused city that is now "turning the North Sea into a green power plant for Europe," boasting a state-of-the-art district heating system, hyper scale data centers, carbon capture, energy storage solutions, and the North Sea's leading port for offshore wind.

Saturday

The Study Tour concludes in Billund (international HQs of Legos!).

From: [Rhys Roth](#)
To: [Rep Owens](#); [Rep Helm](#); [Rep Elmer](#)
Cc: [Mintz Greg](#); [Clark Stacy](#); [Alexa Martin Del Campo](#)
Subject: RE: Scholarships for Oregon small biz to join Denmark Study Tour
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:14:40 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Representative Elmer:

Great to connect with you, and thanks for your interest in joining this Study Tour. It can certainly work to have you arrive on Monday; ideally you could make it during the day and catch some of Monday's action. And we can also brief you and share slide decks to allow you to catch up on the pieces you miss.

With that said... I am pleased to **offer you a scholarship to join a delegation of policy and business leaders from Oregon for a Study Tour in Denmark** that runs June 9-June 15th.

The Study Tour scholarships are made possible thanks to a grant from **the Seattle-based philanthropy, the [Scan Design Foundation](#)**, and the tour is being organized by my nonprofit [Center for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) (CSI).

**** Could you reply to this email** to accept this scholarship and/or ask any questions that you have for us?

Here is additional information that may be helpful:

The Study Tour will center on Industrial Symbiosis (IS), a ground-breaking approach to infrastructure and economic development, pioneered in Denmark, where one sector's wastes – energy, water, materials – become valuable resources for other businesses.

[The Oregon delegation](#) will tour Danish projects, and consult with Danish industry leaders and project developers, to learn how Danes are applying IS principles and best practices to benefit the economic value, competitiveness, and sustainability of Danish industry. The [Study Tour itinerary](#) emphasizes projects and facilities from sectors with great relevance to Oregon, such as food, beverage, and wood products.

A bipartisan group of 8 Oregon policymakers will be joined on the Study Tour by 10-15 business, academic, and agency leaders from Oregon.

This Study Tour leverages a strong track record from Washington State. Since 2017, CSI has visited Denmark with three dozen Washington state legislators – evenly distributed between Republicans and Democrats -- on tours where they observed IS in action. These bipartisan

legislators found significant common ground in seeing the potential to adapt Denmark's IS model to benefit a wide range of Washington communities, while strengthening the state's economy and environment. [Legislative accomplishments in Washington](#) may provide an inspiring model that Oregon legislators can build upon.

Your scholarship will cover almost all your costs to participate - from airfare to/from Copenhagen (up to \$1300), to transportation, accommodations, and most meals during the Study Tour.

My colleague, Alexa Martin Del Campo, and I are happy to answer any questions that you have. On **Tuesday, April 16th at 10am**, we'll be hosting a preparation/orientation meeting for delegates on this Study Tour, you'll receive an invitation to join us for that important meeting.

I hope you can join us for an informative and beneficial trip!

Sincerely, Rhys Roth

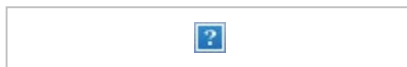
Rhys Roth
Executive Director



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e: rhys@centerforsi.org

sustaininfrastructure.org



From: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>

Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 4:37 PM

To: Rhys Roth <rhys@centerforsi.org>; Rep Helm <Rep.KenHelm@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Elmer <Rep.LucettaElmer@oregonlegislature.gov>

Cc: Mintz Greg <Greg.Mintz@oregonlegislature.gov>; Clark Stacy <Stacy.Clark@oregonlegislature.gov>; Alexa Martin Del Campo <alexa@centerforsi.org>

Subject: RE: Scholarships for Oregon small biz to join Denmark Study Tour

Rhys,

I've included Rep. Elmer into this thread as she believes she can make it on the trip if she could come in on

Monday.

Mark

Mark Owens

House District 60

Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov

503-986-1460

Frontier Oregon – The Best part of the State

From: Rhys Roth <rhys@centerforsi.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 12:26 PM

To: Rep Helm <Rep.KenHelm@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Owens

<Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>

Cc: Mintz Greg <Greg.Mintz@oregonlegislature.gov>; Clark Stacy <Stacy.Clark@oregonlegislature.gov>;

Alexa Martin Del Campo <alexa@centerforsi.org>

Subject: FW: Scholarships for Oregon small biz to join Denmark Study Tour

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Legislature. Use caution clicking any links or attachments.

Hi Rep Helm and Rep Owens: Here is the information on the Business Oregon scholarships that you can share...

[View this email in your browser](#)



**CSI's Upcoming Oregon-to-Denmark Symbiosis Study Tour
Apply Now for a Small Biz Scholarship**



CSI's next [Industrial Symbiosis Study Tour of Denmark](#) is set for June 9 – 15 for public and private leaders from the Great State of Oregon.

Thanks to Business Oregon, CSI is offering **\$5000 scholarships to 10 Oregon small businesses** to participate. [DEADLINE TO APPLY is April 11](#)

The small business scholarships will cover the majority of the cost for this weeklong study tour.

Companies that use significant heat, water, and organic materials in their production facilities – including food, beverage, and wood products businesses – will discover and see first-hand remarkable strategies deployed by the Danes that both boost the bottom line *and* improve sustainability performance at the same time.

[Follow the link](#) to learn more and to apply.

[Apply Today](#)

Thanks to a grant from the [Scan Design Foundation](#), the delegation will include a bipartisan group of 8 Oregon State Legislators. They will be joined by 10-15 business, nonprofit, and academic leaders from Oregon.

Interested in joining this delegation to Denmark? After legislator and small business scholarships, only a half dozen seats remain available, so contact [Alexa Martin Del Campo](#)

right away to learn about pricing and how to apply.

*This Study Tour has been made possible thanks
to generous support and assistance from:*



***CSI supports and accelerates sustainable infrastructure
innovation in the Pacific Northwest***

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120 State Ave. NE, #303, Olympia, WA 98501

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