

Original Amendment

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

2015 OCT 22 AM 11:18

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

MEMBER / OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual Financial Disclosure Statement. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must **complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: REP. ERIK PAULSEN
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 10/9/15 Return: 10/13/15
 b. Dates at personal expense: _____ or None
4. Departure city: DCA Destination: Havana, Cuba Return city: MSP
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Center for Democracy in the Americas
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): _____
Fact-finding mission to Havana, Cuba
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):
 - a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 - b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics 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: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER:

Erik Paulsen

DATE:

10/22/15

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)

2. Travel Destination(s): Miami, Florida; Havana, Cuba

3. Date of Departure: October 9, 2015 Date of Return: October 13, 2015

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Erik Paulsen


(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

| | Total Transportation Expenses | Total Lodging Expenses | Total Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Traveler | \$1,504 | \$749 | \$330 | \$115 (please see addendum) |
| Accompanying Relative | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

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

Signature: 

Name: Sarah Stephens Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: PO Box 53106

Washington, DC 20009

Telephone number: 202-234-5506

Email Address: sstephens@democracyinamericas.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

**CDA Fact Finding Delegation to Cuba
October 9-13, 2015**

Addendum: Actual amount of expenses

Note: Total Transportation Expenses for each participant varied as Members flew back to their respective home district at the conclusion of the trip.

Other Expenses: \$114.94

- 1) Internet access: \$11.49
- 2) Tips (hotel, guide, driver): \$75.86
- 3) Translators: \$27.58

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Erik Paulsen
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
3. Travel destination(s): Havana, Cuba
4. a. Date of departure October 9, 2015 Date of return: October 13, 2015
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 relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
The mission of the trip is to learn about the economic potential of expanding trade relationships between the U.S. and Cuba, which is critical to Minnesota businesses and farmers.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

10. FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

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: _____

Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

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 at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): _____
Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
3. *Check only one:* I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds *or*.
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):
Please see addendum.
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: October 9, 2015 Date of return: October 13, 2015
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): Miami, Florida; Havana, Cuba
c. City of return: Home district
8. 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.
9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: *or*
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box):

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal 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*

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

CDA is a nonprofit nonpartisan institution that seeks to educate policy makers on U.S. policy toward Cuba. One of CDA's main activities is to organize fact-finding trips to Cuba to give participants first-hand experience. CDA is responsible for all aspects of this trip, including the selection and recruitment of participants, setting up meetings, and logistics.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)

b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

The group will travel on regularly-scheduled chartered flights on commercial U.S. carrier via ABC Charters, as all travel to Cuba must go through OFAC-licensed Travel Service Providers.

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):

a. 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*

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
Approximately \$90

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Havana is the capital of Cuba and the country's largest city. It affords the opportunity to meet a wide range of Cubans, including civil society leaders, artists, academics, and government officials.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Miami International Airport Hotel City: Miami Cost per night: \$160

Reason(s) for selecting: Convenience for necessary overnight stopover before early morning flight to Havana

Hotel name: Hotel Nacional City: Havana Cost per night: \$180

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

17. 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):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

| <input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates | Total Transportation Expenses per Participant | Total Lodging Expenses per Participant | Total Meal Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | \$1,300 | \$700 | \$300 |
| For each accompanying relative | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | Other Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | \$100 | Phone/internet, translation, tips, education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| For each accompanying relative | N/A | N/A |

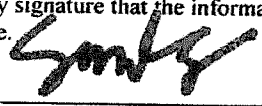
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

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

Signature: 

Name: Sarah Stephens

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)

Address: P.O. Box 53106, Washington DC 20009

Telephone number: 202-234-5506

Email address: sstephens@democracyinamericas.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

** Please contact Andrew Fishera,
 Policy and Advocacy Director at CDA,
 with any questions.
 andrew@democracyinamericas.org
 202-234-5506*

Item 16 – Explanation of hotel cost in Havana

The rate of the Hotel Nacional exceeds the maximum per diem rate for reimbursement of U.S. Government civilians traveling on official business in foreign areas, which is set by the State Department Office of Allowances.

CDA has chosen to stay in this hotel because it is one of the few lodging options in Havana that provides essential services including reliable Internet and other business facilities. These are necessities for traveling Members of Congress, who must be able to reliably contact their offices in Washington, DC and in their districts and have access to U.S. news. The Hotel Nacional is comparable in price to other hotels in Havana that offer these services and is centrally-located.

Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania
Chairman
Linda T. Sanchez, California
Ranking Member

Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Kenny Marchant, Texas

Michael F. Capuano, Massachusetts
Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Ted Deutch, Florida
John B. Larson, Connecticut



ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

September 11, 2015

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Joanne White
Administrative Staff Director

Clifford C. Stoddard, Jr.
Counsel to the Chairman

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Cuba,¹ scheduled for October 9 to 13, 2015, sponsored by the Center for Democracy in the Americas.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$375 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$375] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value 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.

¹ This advisory opinion concerns whether this trip complies with applicable House Rules. It is our understanding that the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers regulations governing travel by United States citizens to Cuba, including what items may be brought back to the United States. You should contact that agency directly to ensure that your travel is permissible under its regulations.


The Honorable Erik Paulsen
Page 2

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

Sincerely,



Charles W. Dent
Chairman



Linda T. Sánchez
Ranking Member

CWD/LTS:wfs



**U.S. House of Representatives Delegation to Cuba
October 9-13, 2015**

Friday, October 9

- 4:20pm Flight from Washington (DCA) to Miami (MIA)
- 6:55pm Arrival at the Miami International Airport, check-in to the Miami International Airport Hotel.
- Accommodations: **Miami International Airport Hotel**
Terminal E, 2nd Level
NW 20th Street & LeJeune Road FL 33122 Miami US
(305) 871-4100
- 7:30pm Dinner briefing in hotel restaurant
- Location: Air Margaritaville, adjacent to Miami Airport Hotel
Terminal E, Second Level

Saturday October 10

- 6:00am Delegation met in hotel lobby
- 8:00am ABC Charters flight to Havana (HAV)
- 9:00am Arrival at José Martí International Airport
- The delegation was met at the airport by representatives of Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a briefing to review the official itinerary with CDA **Warnel Lores Mora**, head of policy in the U.S. Division at MINREX **Luis Mariano Fernández Rodríguez**, policy officer in the U.S. Division at MINREX
- Location: VIP Room at airport
- 9:45am Depart airport for the Ernest Hemingway House, Finca Vigia
- 10:30am **Visit to the Ernest Hemingway House and Museum "Finca Vigía,"** located approximately 40 minutes from downtown Havana. The museum, operated by

Cuba's government, preserves the home, furnishings, books and documents from Hemingway's residence in Cuba from 1939—1960. The delegation met with the director of Finca Vigía, **Ada Rosa Alfonso**, and discussed the historical significance of the home as well as the preservation efforts underway that have been made possible by new U.S. regulations that allow the export of building materials to Cuba, the first arrangement of its kind since the official rapprochement began between the U.S. and Cuba in December 2014.

12:15pm Depart Finca Vigia for lunch meeting

1:00pm **Lunch meeting with Rafael Hernández, editor of *Temas***

Temas, a Cuban magazine focused on the social sciences and the humanities, renowned for its contributions to intellectual debate on the island. Rafael Hernández is a senior research fellow at the Juan Marinello Center for Development and Research of Cuban Culture in Havana. Hernández gave an overview of changes in the Cuban political economy, including the nascent private sector, decentralization efforts inside the government, and his perspectives on the trajectory of Cuban civil society.

Location: **Café Laurent paladar**
Calle M #257, Entre 19 y 2, Vedado

2:30pm Pick up from restaurant in classic cars

3:00pm **Visits to Cuban homes** with Nidialys Acosta and Julio Álvarez, the husband and wife entrepreneurs who run Nostalgicar, a chauffeur service for classic cars.

- **Barbara Fernández**, a self-employed seamstress with her own line of baby clothing and mosquito nets

- **Guillermo Vantour**, an artist who works at the Experimental Graphics Studio in Old Havana.

4:30pm Depart for hotel

5:00pm Arrival at Hotel Nacional and check in at Executive Floor Lobby (6th floor)

Accommodations: **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**
Calle 21 y O, Vedado, Plaza, Ciudad de la Habana
(53-7) 836 3564

7:00pm Depart hotel for dinner

7:30pm **Dinner with Reuters reporter Marc Frank**
Marc Frank is the author of “Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana” and an expert on the Cuban economy. Mr. Frank commented on current events on the island, including the human rights situation, the dual currency system, and how he sees the evolution of the Cuban government’s attitude toward the U.S.

Location:

La Corte Del Principe paladar
Calle 9na esquina con 74, Playa, La Habana

9:00pm Return to hotel

Sunday, October 11

8:30am Depart hotel on bus for ferry

9:00am **Journey across Havana Bay to Regla, a working class, Afro-Cuban community.**

The delegation took the passenger ferry across the bay of Havana to the predominantly Afro-Cuban neighborhood Regla, first stopping to visit a Santeria church and then walking through the community to the home of **Alexey Rodríguez**. There the delegation discussed racism, free speech, censorship, and attitudes toward the government with Alexey and **Magia López**, who comprise the rap group Obsesión, and their manager **Orlando Ochoa**.

11:00am Return to hotel to change clothes

12:30pm Depart hotel for lunch meeting

1:00pm **Lunch with H.E. John Petter Opdahl, Ambassador of Norway to Cuba** with a group of prominent third country Ambassadors, for a discussion on investments in Cuba and expected Cuban reactions to developments in the U.S.-Cuba negotiations. Also participating were **Ambassador Montealban** of Spain, **Ambassador Herman Portocarreo** of the European Union, and **Ambassador Cesário Melantonio Neto** of Brazil. The diplomats discussed their experience working on the island, Cuba’s economic and political situation, and civil society on the island.

Location: Ambassador Opdahl’s residence
Calle 216 No. 714 e/ 7a y 9a, Siboney, Playa, La Habana

3:30pm Depart Ambassador Opdahl’s residence

- 4:00pm **Visit to an open-air artisan market in Old Havana**
The delegation talked with small business owners and walked through Old Havana to see the national *Capitolio* building.
- 5:00pm Return to hotel
- 5:30pm **Briefing with Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, and Scott Hamilton, Deputy Chief of Mission.** Ambassador DeLaurentis and Mr. Hamilton discussed the status of bilateral relations, the human rights situation on the island, and how they see the political and economic evolution of Cuba.
- 7:00pm Depart hotel for dinner
- 7:30pm **Dinner with small business owners at Atelier paladar.**
The delegation engaged in informal and personal exchanges with a diverse group of Cuban entrepreneurs and civil society members to understand their daily challenges, their perceptions of the Cuban government, and their views on U.S.-Cuban rapprochement. The group was joined by four cuentapropistas: **Julio Álvarez and Nidialys Acosta** of Nostalgicar; and **Yamina and Maurisel Vicente**, a former economics professor and her sister who operate a decoration and event planning business called Decorazón. **Emilia Fernández**, a human resources specialist at an eye clinic, also joined the conversation.
- Location: Atelier palader, Calle 5ta No. 511 altos, Entre Paseo y 2, Vedado
+53 7-836-2025
- 9:00pm Return to hotel

Monday, October 12

- 9:00am Depart hotel for meeting with trade officials
- 9:30am **Meeting with senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), and ALIMPORT, the agency that deals with agricultural trade with the U.S.**
1. **Deborah Rivas Saavedra**, Director General of Investment at MINCEX
 2. **Marilú Bhamel**, Director of North America at MINCEX
 3. **Alejandro Mustelier Zamora**, President of ALIMPORT
 4. **Warnel Lores Mora**, head of policy in the U.S. division at MINREX
 5. **Luis Mariano Fernández Rodríguez**, policy officer in the U.S. division at MINREX

Officials in the Cuban trade and import agencies presented Cuba's plans for attracting foreign investment and discussed bilateral U.S.-Cuba trade issues.

10:30am Return to hotel

10:45am **Meeting with Luis Rene Fernandez and Raul Rodriguez Rodriguez from the University of Havana's Center for U.S. Studies (CESEU) and Economics Department**

The delegation discussed the structural changes undergoing the Cuban economy and the timeline for moving forward on issues like telecommunications access.

Location: Hotel Nacional meeting room

12:20pm Depart hotel for lunch meeting

12:30pm **Lunch with H.E. Marcelino Medina González, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and senior MINREX officials**

1. **Josefina Vidal**, Director General of the U.S. Division at MINREX
2. **Gustavo Machin**, Deputy Director General of the U.S. Division at MINREX
3. **Warnel Lores Mora**, head of policy in the U.S. Division at MINREX
4. **Luis Mariano Fernández Rodríguez**, policy officer in the U.S. Division at MINREX
5. **Beatriz Muñoz Monzón**, interpreter

Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister hosted lunch for the delegation. He and his colleagues discussed the ongoing bilateral negotiations on topics such as direct mail and ferry service, and Cuba's desire to create an atmosphere of bilateral trade in both directions.

Location: **Café del Oriente**
Plaza de San Francisco

2:30pm Depart restaurant for the Business Center at Miramar

3:00pm **Meeting with Mayra Averich Marin, Executive President of ETECSA**, the Cuban state telecommunications provider. Mrs. Averich presented Cuba's telecommunications situation and described the current infrastructure and usage of technology like mobile phones and the Internet. ETECSA officials expressed their desire to establish direct interconnections with U.S. telecommunications operators with the goal of improving call quality and reducing costs.

Location: Centro de Negocios Miramar, edificio Beijing, 5to piso, Ave 3ra, e/ 76 y 78, Playa, La Habana

- 4:15pm Departure for next meetings: Rep. Paulsen to Catholic Archdiocese, Rep. Takano to National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX)
- 4:30pm **Meeting with Mariela Castro, director of the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX)**
Ms. Castro discussed the work CENESEX does in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and education, AIDS/HIV prevention and outreach, and LGBT rights.
- 5:00pm **Meeting with Orlando Marquéz, spokesman of the Catholic Archdiocese of Havana**
The Catholic Church is an important institution in Cuban society. Orlando Marquez is the spokesman of the Catholic Archdiocese and the editor of *Palabra Nueva* magazine, a publication of the Archdiocese. Orlando Marquez discussed the Church's role in civil society, the impact of the Pope's recent visit in Cuba, workshops and training programs for Cuban entrepreneurs, and his views on the future of political leadership in Cuba.
- Location: Centro Cultural Padre Félix Varela
Calle Cuba Tacón e/ Chacón y Empedrado, Habana Vieja, Cuba
- 6:30pm Return to hotel
- 7:00pm Depart for dinner
- 7:30pm **Closing dinner for the delegation at *paladar La Guarida*.**
Concordia No.418 /Gervasio y Escobar, Centro Habana
- 9:00pm Return to hotel

Tuesday, October 13

- 8:30am Delegation departed hotel for José Martí International Airport
- 10:20am Flight to Tampa International Airport (TPA)
- 11:40am Arrive TPA
- Afternoon Connecting flights



**U.S. House of Representatives Delegation to Cuba
October 9-13, 2015**

**CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT AGENDA FOR
PARTICIPANTS ONLY**

Friday, October 9

Afternoon Depart from DCA

Evening Arrival at the Miami International Airport (MIA), check-in to the Miami International Airport Hotel. Option for dinner at hotel restaurant

Accommodations: **Miami International Airport Hotel**
Terminal E, 2nd Level
NW 20th Street & LeJeune Road FL 33122 Miami US
(305) 871-4100

Saturday October 10

8:00am Flight to Havana, Cuba.

9:00am Arrival at José Martí International Airport.

9:15am The delegation will be met at the airport by representatives of Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a briefing, in which we will review the official itinerary with CDA and the delegation.

10:00am Depart airport for Vinca Figía

10:45am **Visit to the Ernest Hemingway House and Museum "Finca Vigía,"** located approximately 40 minutes from downtown Havana. The museum, operated by Cuba's government, preserves the home, furnishings, books and documents from Hemingway's residence in Cuba from 1939—1960. Ada Rosa Alfonso Rosales, director of the museum, will speak about collaborations with non-profits in the U.S. to preserve the documents and talk about the history of Hemingway's house.

- 12:00pm Depart Finca Vigia for hotel
- 12:45pm Arrive at the Hotel Nacional and check in
- Accommodations: **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**
Calle 21 y O, Vedado, Plaza, Ciudad de la Habana
(53-7) 836 3564
- 1:30pm **Lunch and presentation at hotel by Miguel Coyula**, renowned architect and urban planner who has served as an advisor to the city of Havana since 1988. He will make a presentation on the history of Havana's development and discuss subjects like urban migration, new laws allowing Cubans to buy and sell real estate, transportation challenges, infrastructure deficiencies, city renovation projects, and other issues affecting Cuban society and urban life in Havana.
- 3:30pm **Visits to Cuban homes** with Nidialys Acosta and Julio Álvarez, the husband and wife entrepreneurs who run Nostalgicar, a chauffeur service for classic cars. The delegation will visit Barbara Fernández, a self-employed seamstress with her own line of baby clothing and mosquito nets, and Guillermo Vantour, an artist who works at the Experimental Graphics Studio in Old Havana. Barbara and Guillermo will introduce us to their families and talk about their daily lives – how they came to their occupations, where they work, how their jobs have changed with Cuba's economic reforms, and challenges and opportunities they face.
- 4:30pm **Visit to the Liza Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for Cuban youth which specialize in flamenco dance**
The dancers, who come from across the island and are admitted on merit, have the opportunity to travel and perform abroad. Following a brief performance, the dancers and academy's directors will discuss how they came to join the academy and the impact dance has had on their lives.
- 7:30pm **Dinner with Reuters reporter Marc Frank at Bellaciao paladar**
Marc Frank is the author of "Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana" and an expert on the Cuban economy. Mr. Frank will comment about current events on the island, including the human rights situation, and how he sees the evolution of the Cuban government's attitude toward the U.S.

Sunday, October 11

- 9:00am **Journey across Havana Bay to Regla**, a working class, Afro-Cuban community. The delegation will take the passenger ferry across the bay to Regla, first stopping at a church to observe the morning mass, and then walking through the Regla community to the home of Alexey Rodríguez. There the delegation will have the opportunity to discuss free speech, censorship, and attitudes toward the

government with Alexey and Magia López, who comprise the hip-hop group Obsesión, and their manager Orlando Ochoa.

- 11:30am **Meeting with Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis**, at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Ambassador DeLaurentis will discuss the status of bilateral relations, including negotiations on various topics, and will take questions from the delegation.
- 1:30pm **Lunch with H.E. John Petter Opdahl, Ambassador of Norway to Cuba** with a group of prominent third country Ambassadors, for a discussion on investments in Cuba and expected Cuban reactions to developments in the U.S.-Cuba negotiations.
- 3:00pm **Visit an open-air artisan market in Old Havana.** The delegation will have the chance to talk with small business owners and walk through Old Havana to see the national *Capitolio* building.
- 7:30pm **Dinner with small business owners at Atelier paladar.** The delegation will have the opportunity to engage in informal and personal exchanges with a diverse group of Cuban entrepreneurs and civil society members to understand their daily challenges, their perceptions of the Cuban government, and their views on U.S.-Cuban rapprochement. The group will be joined by four *cuentapropistas*: Niuris Higuera Martínez, owner of Atelier; Julio Álvarez and Nidialys Acosta of Nostalgicar; and Yamina Vicente, a former economics professor who operates a party decorations business. Emilia Fernández, a human resources specialist at an eye clinic, will also join the conversation.

Monday, October 12

- 8:00am **Meeting with Orlando Marquéz, spokesman of the Catholic Archdiocese of Havana**
The Catholic Church is an important institution in Cuban society. Orlando Marquez is the spokesman of the Catholic Archdiocese and the editor of *Palabra Nueva* magazine, a publication of the Archdiocese. The delegation will have the opportunity to discuss the Church's role in civil society, workshops and training programs for Cuban entrepreneurs, and current events affecting Cuban civil society, including Cuban attitudes toward normalizing relations with the U.S.
- 9:00am **Visit to Mariel Port, including briefing with port administrators**
The delegation will tour the facility and speak with the port's leadership about Cuba's plans to make Mariel a deep-water port capable of serving Panamax vessels, the functioning of the special economic zone created around the port, and how it fits into the country's economic strategy.
- 11:30am **Meeting with senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
The delegation will discuss U.S.-Cuba relations and areas where the two countries might seek increased dialogue and engagement in the context of the

ongoing bilateral negotiations, such as migration, environmental cooperation, human rights, and intra-hemispheric relations.

- 1:00pm Lunch
- 2:30pm **Meeting with senior officials in MINCEX, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, and representatives of ALIMPORT**
Trade Ministry officials will share their views on the Cuban strategy to achieve economic growth and attract needed foreign investment, and discuss the challenges facing the Cuban system.
- 4:00pm **Meeting with senior officials at ETECSA, the Telecommunications Company of Cuba**
- 5:30pm **Discussion on the Cuban economy with prominent Cuban academics from the University of Havana:**
Yaima Doimeadios, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economics
Jorge Mario Sánchez, International Economics Research Center
Discussion on the Cuban economic model, its evolution and future
- 7:30pm **Closing dinner for the delegation at the *paladar* La Guarida.**

Tuesday, October 13

- 8:30am Depart for José Martí International Airport
- 10:30am Flight to Tampa International Airport (TPA)
- Morning/
Afternoon Flights to district or DC

Addendum: House Invitees

Congressman Erik Paulsen was invited due to his interest in learning about Cuba and the economic potential of the changing dynamics in U.S.-Cuba relations, which are of interest to Minnesota farmers.

Congressman Mark Takano was invited due to his interest in learning about Cuba. Congressman Takano sits on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which is concerned with international scientific cooperation. As relations evolve between the U.S. and Cuba, researchers are exploring increased scientific collaboration between the two countries.

Congressman Cynthia Lummis was invited due to her long-standing interest in Cuba. She has been involved with bipartisan Cuba-related legislative initiatives since the 111th Congress.