



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings:

I write in response to your September 26, 2017, letter to the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the use of government-owned or private non-commercial aircraft by DOE non-career officials.

The Department follows government-wide regulations and policy, including OMB Circular A-126, relating to the use of government-owned aircraft and private non-commercial aircraft. DOE also has its own policies relating to the use of government-owned aircraft, Aviation Order 440.2C and Travel Manual 552.1-1A, copies of which are enclosed.

The Department has not identified any instances when DOE non-career officials used private non-commercial aircraft and has identified four instances when DOE non-career officials used government-owned aircraft or chartered aircraft, since January 20, 2017. The enclosed documents contain the requested information for each of the identified trips.¹ Senior DOE non-career officials have also traveled with the President and the Vice President on government-owned aircraft and with senior officials from other agencies, on aircraft provided by those agencies, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. This response does not address this travel as such travel arrangements were not made by DOE. This response also does not address any personal travel that may have occurred on private non-commercial aircraft for which there was no taxpayer or DOE involvement.

¹ With respect to the May 9 and May 11 trip, one portion of the trip was carried out on a commercial aircraft; therefore, the total cost of the government-owned aircraft for this trip was less than \$7K. Additionally, DOD provided the government-owned aircraft for this trip and to date has not sought reimbursement from DOE.



I hope this information will be helpful to you and to the Committee. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Marty Dannenfelser, Deputy Assistant Secretary for House Affairs in DOE's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Fygi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric J. Fygi
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosures