

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

The House Committee on Small Business (Committee) writes regarding additional concerns related to the travel of senior Small Business Administration (SBA) officials. During the 118th Congress, the Committee has been investigating claims that the SBA has been using taxpayer resources on partisan or otherwise inappropriate travel. Through the course of the Committee's investigation, the Committee received outreach alleging that the Region IV Administrator, Allen Thomas, is engaged in improper and wasteful travel.

As the Committee has previously stated, SBA employees traveling and engaging with small business owners is a valuable part of the SBA's mission. Conversely, using taxpayer resources for personal or political travel is unacceptable. Given the Committee's ongoing investigation, and reports that Regional Administrator Thomas may have wasted substantial taxpayer resources when he was the Executive Director of Global TransPark, the Committee seeks to ensure that taxpayer resources are not being redirected to fund improper travel.¹ To that end, the Committee requests the following information and answers as soon as possible but no later than December 13, 2024:

1. The travel records of Regional Administrator Thomas from January 1, 2022, through December 2024.
2. The travel itineraries for trips Regional Administrator Thomas has taken, and is currently scheduled to take in the future, including where, when, and with whom, from January 1, 2022, through the end of the year.
3. All trip summaries and/or related documents memorializing reimbursement for costs associated with political activities under the Hatch Act for Regional Administrator Thomas, including all reimbursement statements, for all trips encompassed in request 1 and 2 of this letter.

¹ NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018, 374 (Apr. 4, 2019).

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman

November 20, 2024

Page 2 of 2

To schedule the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Small Business Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821. The Committee on Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Roger Williams
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez, Ranking Member