



June 7, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Representative David Eastman  
State Capitol Room 422  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)

**Re: Public Records Act Request**

Dear Representative Eastman:

Pursuant to the Alaska Public Records Act, AS §§ 40.25.110 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within five business days:

1. Records reflecting the expenses and costs incurred by your office or the Alaska House of Representatives related to Representative Eastman's trip to Phoenix, Arizona on or around June 9, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

To the extent your office has aggregated records sufficient to show all relevant expenses and costs, such as spreadsheets, American Oversight would accept production of such records as sufficient. To the extent your office does not have an aggregated record of these costs, American Oversight requests records reflecting those costs, such as receipts, invoices, charge card or credit card statements, and reimbursement requests.

Relevant expenses may include, but are not limited to, hotel or other lodging costs; costs for air travel, rental car, or other transportation companies; costs incurred for government transportation; the cost of meals or refreshments; and diem payments.

Relevant expenses include costs associated with the travel of Representative Eastman, and of any staff members, family members, or other individuals travelling with him.

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<sup>1</sup> For further identification, please see James Brooks, *Alaska Lawmaker Takes State-Paid Tour of Arizona's Republican-Led Election Audit*, Anchorage Daily News (June 8, 2021), <https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2021/06/08/alaska-lawmaker-takes-state-paid-tour-of-arizonas-republican-led-election-audit/>.



2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) sent by Representative Eastman, or anyone communicating on his behalf such as a Chief of Staff, scheduler, or assistant, regarding Representative Eastman's trip to the Phoenix, Arizona on or about June 9, 2021 or about the Maricopa county election audit.<sup>2</sup>

In an effort to accommodate the Representative Eastman's office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by Representative Eastman and his staff. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Eastman's response to an email about the trip and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from June 1, 2021, through June 12, 2021.

### **Fees Waiver Request**

Pursuant to AS 40.25.110(d) and your agency's fee waiver policy, American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with this request for records. American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses information gathered through research and public records requests, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.<sup>3</sup>

American Oversight's request serves the public interest.<sup>4</sup> The public has a significant interest in a trip taken to Phoenix, Arizona by Representative Eastman. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the Alaskan government, including the cost of Representative Eastman's trip.

Accordingly, American Oversight respectfully requests a fee waiver.

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<sup>2</sup> For further identifying information, please see *id.*

<sup>3</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 106,200 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited June 13, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited June 13, 2021, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> AS 40.25.110(d).

## **Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. N.R.S. § 239.010(3). If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

## **Conclusion**

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American

Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Hart Wood at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 873-1743.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hart Wood  
Hart Wood  
on behalf of  
American Oversight