

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2189

To require the publication of fossil-fuel powered travel by the President, the Vice President, and political appointees, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2023

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the publication of fossil-fuel powered travel by the President, the Vice President, and political appointees, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Executive Branch  
5 Emissions Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DATABASE ON FOSSIL FUEL-POWERED TRAVEL BY**  
7 **THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND**  
8 **POLITICAL APPOINTEES.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

1           (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
2 individual” means—

3           (A) the President;

4           (B) the Vice President; and

5           (C) a political appointee.

6           (2) COVERED TRAVEL.—The term “covered  
7 travel” means—

8           (A) travel that is powered by fossil fuels by  
9 a covered individual on official business; and

10           (B) travel that is powered by fossil fuels by  
11 a covered individual that is paid for by a third  
12 party, if the covered individual is appearing in  
13 their official capacity.

14           (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
15 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
16 et.

17           (4) POLITICAL APPOINTEE.—The term “polit-  
18 ical appointee” means any individual—

19           (A) occupying a position in the Executive  
20 Office of the President or in the Office of the  
21 Vice President for which appointment is made  
22 by the President or Vice President, without re-  
23 gard to whether the appointment is made by  
24 and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

1 (B) occupying position on the executive  
2 schedule under sections 5312 through 5316 of  
3 title 5, United States Code;

4 (C) who is a limited term appointee, lim-  
5 ited emergency appointee, or noncareer ap-  
6 pointee in the Senior Executive Service as de-  
7 fined in paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) of section  
8 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code, respec-  
9 tively;

10 (D) occupying a position in the executive  
11 branch of the Government of a confidential or  
12 policy-determining character under Schedule C  
13 of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of  
14 Federal Regulations;

15 (E) occupying a position for which ap-  
16 pointment is made by the President and does  
17 not require the advice and consent of the Sen-  
18 ate;

19 (F) who is an Ambassador; or

20 (G) who is—

21 (i) a member of the staff of an Am-  
22 bassador;

23 (ii) not a member of the Foreign  
24 Service; and

1 (iii) occupying a position for which  
2 appointment is made by the President,  
3 without regard to whether the appointment  
4 is made by and with the advice and con-  
5 sent of the Senate.

6 (5) RELEVANT HEAD.—The term “relevant  
7 head” means—

8 (A) with respect to a political appointee de-  
9 scribed in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E)  
10 of paragraph (4), the head of the Federal entity  
11 in which the political appointee occupies their  
12 position;

13 (B) with respect to the President, the Vice  
14 President, or a political appointee described in  
15 paragraph (4)(A), the White House Office of  
16 Management and Administration; and

17 (C) with respect to a political appointee de-  
18 scribed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of para-  
19 graph (4), the Secretary of State.

20 (b) DATABASE.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director  
23 shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible  
24 and searchable database of covered travel.

1           (2) SUBMISSION TO RELEVANT HEAD.—Not  
2 later than 30 days after the date on which a covered  
3 individual has taken covered travel and has returned  
4 to the origin of the trip, the covered individual shall  
5 submit to the relevant head a report on the covered  
6 travel, which shall include—

7                   (A) the name of each covered individual on  
8 the covered travel;

9                   (B) the mode of travel;

10                  (C) the origin and destination;

11                  (D) a description of the covered travel;

12                  (E) miles traveled;

13                  (F) the estimated carbon emissions result-  
14 ing from the covered travel; and

15                  (G) a description of any action taken to  
16 limit the carbon emissions associated with the  
17 covered travel.

18           (3) SUBMISSION TO OMB.—Not later than the  
19 1st of each month, each relevant head shall submit  
20 to the Director a report that includes the informa-  
21 tion received under paragraph (2) during the pre-  
22 ceding month relating to covered travel.

23           (4) PUBLICATION BY OMB.—Not later than the  
24 15th of each month, the Director shall update the  
25 database established under this subsection with the

1 reports submitted under paragraph (3) during the  
2 preceding month.

3 (5) EXCEPTION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY  
4 RISK.—The Director shall not publish on the data-  
5 base established under this subsection information  
6 described in paragraph (2) if the publication of that  
7 information could be deemed a national security  
8 risk.

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