

THE VALUE OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND TRAVEL

U.S. TRAVEL
ASSOCIATION

Government meetings and travel are a proven tool to help federal employees do their jobs more effectively and, in turn, support economic growth and job creation. Cutting these vital functions will only reduce federal efficiency and productivity.

DID YOU KNOW...

- **Strong federal travel regulations are already in place** to protect against the misuse of taxpayer funds.
- **Meetings and events are a nearly \$500 billion engine for our economy** and are vital to American jobs, small business growth and thriving local communities.
- **Government meetings supported nearly 300,000 jobs in 2013** and generated \$33.5 billion in travel spending.
- **In 2013, meetings and general business travel supported 2.3 million American jobs**, add nearly \$267 billion in travel spending and contributed \$42 billion in local, state and federal taxes last year.
- **Nine out of 10 federal workers** believe that in-person meetings, conferences and other face-to-face events are important for doing their jobs effectively and for advancing the mission of their agencies.

Government Meetings and Travel Boost Efficiency and Productivity:

- **Interacting Face-to-Face:** Face-to-face interaction is a valuable tool for improving employee training and development, providing efficient taxpayer services, facilitating cross-agency collaboration, and developing private-sector partnerships.
- **Transferring Knowledge:** Government-wide travel, in-person meetings, conventions, and conferences are critical education platforms, developing advanced skills, enabling workforce training, and facilitating rapid information sharing.
- **Advancing An Agency's Mission:** Nine out of ten federal workers believe that in-person meetings, conferences, and other face-to-face events are important for doing their jobs effectively and for advancing the mission of their agencies.
- **Encouraging Innovation:** 84 percent of federal workers agree that America's future innovation and competitiveness require engagement, collaboration, and learning with those inside and outside of government.

What Federal Workers Say:

"Personal delivery is best in communicating messages clearly, avoiding misinterpretation. It allows for immediate dialogue and not delayed email exchanges."

"In-person meetings allow for networking [and] relaxed conversations that establish important relations between different parties."

"Government travel guidelines and policies are highly regulated and provide strict guidance for agencies to follow. Often such restrictions are at the cost of not allowing much needed in-person professional development opportunities to enrich government employee staff."

What Industry Leaders Say:

"Face-to-face meetings are vital for conducting government business in the most effective and efficient way possible."

-David Peckinpugh, President, Maritz Travel Company

"Face-to-face meetings build relationships. And relationships bring a return on your investment. That's why meetings are important."

- John Graham, President and CEO, American Society of Association Executives

"For a city like Washington, meetings and events are a way to stimulate the city's economy. It gives us a chance to showcase our city in a different light and bring different people to our destination."

- Elliott Ferguson, President and CEO, Destination DC

Members of Congress should support greater oversight and transparency of federal travel spending and oppose harmful across-the-board cuts to government travel budgets.

**SUPPORT ENHANCED EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY.
SUPPORT GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND TRAVEL.**