



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In RE COMPLIANCE WITH
RCW 42.17A

Doug Ericksen and the Doug Ericksen
Surplus Funds Account

Respondent.

PDC Cases 33194

Report of Investigation

I.

Background, Complaint and Allegations

- 1.1 Doug Ericksen is an incumbent State Senator in the 42nd Legislative District, since being elected to that office in 2010. He was re-elected State Senator in 2014 and 2018, and prior to that he served as State Representative, Position 1 in the 42nd Legislative District from 1998 through 2010.
- 1.2 During the 2016 election, Senator Ericksen served as Washington State Co-Chair for the Donald Trump for President Campaign, along with Don Benton, former Washington State Senator.
- 1.3 On March 6, 2018, Sandra Robson filed a complaint against Doug Ericksen and the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account alleging violations of:
 - RCW 42.17A.430 by making expenditures from the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account for unauthorized uses or purposes to travel to Washington DC in part to procure employment in the Trump Administration in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which benefitted him personally.
 - RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to provide the proper details for expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account.
 - RCW 42.17A.445 for using campaign contributions for a personal use.
- 1.4 Ms. Robson provided a copy of a January 21, 2017 EPA appointment letter indicating that Senator Ericksen was appointed to a Senior Advisory position effective January 21, 2017, and that the appointment would end 120 days later, on May, 20, 2017.

- 1.5 The complainant stated that one of her allegations was that a portion, if not all, of the expenditures made from the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account related to his travel to Washington, D.C. in January, March, and May of 2017 were “not related to his elected public office and would not be considered a legitimate public office-related activity.”
- 1.6 On September 9, 2015, Doug Ericksen filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for re-election to the office of State Senator in the 42nd Legislative District in 2018, selecting the Full Reporting Option and initial listing his Treasurer as “To Be Determined” but later listed Kristi Harting as Treasurer.
- 1.7 The 2018 Campaign disclosed receiving \$345,758 in total contributions and \$325,605 in total expenditures made, with \$20,153 as a cash on hand balance as of December 31, 2018 on the “Final” report.
- 1.8 On May 12, 2019, Doug Ericksen filed a C-1 report declaring his candidacy for re-election to the office of State Senator in the 42nd Legislative District in 2022, selecting the Full Reporting Option and listing Ayers Consulting, LLC as Treasurer.
- 1.9 Doug Ericksen registered and established the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account with the PDC sometime prior to January of 2007. The Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account has been filing Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) since at least February 8, 2008, covering the period January 1 through 31, 2008.
- 1.10 On February 12, 2020, after PDC staff conducted a preliminary review and assessment of the facts, PDC staff opened a formal investigation and held an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing) for Doug Ericksen on February 12, 2020, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.755, and WACs 390-37-060 and 390-37-071.

II. **Findings**

- 2.1 **RCW 42.17A.005(50)** defines the surplus funds of a candidate to mean “the balance of contributions that remain in the possession or control of that candidate subsequent to the election for which the contributions were received, and that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts or expenses incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election.
- 2.2 **RCW 42.17A.430** states that the surplus funds of a candidate or a candidate's authorized committee may only be disposed of in any one or more of the following ways: (1) Return the funds to a contributor. (2) Reimburse the candidate for wages lost as a direct result of campaigning. (3) Donate surplus funds to a political party or caucus political committee; (4) Donate surplus funds to a charitable organization registered in accordance with RCW 19.09. (5) Give surplus funds to the state for a variety of uses. (6) Hold the surplus funds for possible use in a future election for the same office. (7) Establish a surplus funds account and use those funds for non-reimbursed public office related expenses.
- 2.3 A “nonreimbursed public office related expense” is an expenditure by an elected or appointed official, or a member of the official's immediate family, *solely* because of being an official.” WAC 390-05-518 (Emphasis added).

- 2.4 If an official incurs a non-reimbursed public office-related expense that also, in any manner, could be considered personal in nature, PDC staff recommends paying the expenditure with personal funds, and then seeking reimbursement from a surplus funds account only for that specific portion that is directly related to his or her elected office.
- 2.5 On Friday, January 20, 2017, the inauguration of President Trump took place in Washington, DC. On Monday, January 23, 2017, Senator Ericksen went to the EPA Offices in Washington, DC for orientation.
- 2.6 Senator Ericksen travelled to Washington, D.C. during 2017 on multiple occasions, including trips in January 2017 and November 2017. Senator Ericksen was appointed by the EPA to a Senior Advisory position effective January 21, 2017, and that appointment ended 120 days later, on May 20, 2017. Shortly after a November 2017 trip to Washington, D.C., Senator Ericksen was offered a similar position by the EPA, to be effective December 17, 2017, but he declined that position in January of 2018.
- 2.7 PDC staff reviewed the C-4 reports filed by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account for calendar years 2016 and 2017, and found the C-4 reports were timely filed and included the following expenditures:
- January 23, 2017: A \$2,084.50 surplus funds expenditure was made to Embassy Suites, 900 10th St NW, Washington DC.
 - March 16, 2017: A \$321.80 surplus funds expenditure was made to United Airlines for Travel, and a \$52.20 surplus funds expenditure was made to Elephant and Castle, a restaurant in Washington, DC.
 - May 15, 2017: A \$100 surplus funds expenditure was made to BLT Prime a restaurant in Washington, DC.
 - November 10 and 15, 2017: Two surplus fund expenditures were made to Alaska Airlines, \$381.42 (on 11/10/17) and \$79 (on 11/15/2017) and listing the description for both expenditures as “Travel”
 - November 20, 2017: A \$845.70 surplus funds expenditure was made to Embassy Suites, 900 10th St NW, Washington DC.
- 2.8 On February 10, 2020, the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account timely filed a C-4 report for January of 2020, disclosing \$227,550 in total funds transferred into the account since its inception, and a \$201,348 in total expenditures. The January 2020 Surplus Funds C-4 report disclosed a total of \$3,483 in surplus fund expenditures made during the month that included \$2,499 to purchase and replace a computer, a \$500 contribution made to the Skagit County Republican Party, with the remaining four expenditures for travel, meals and lodging.

Mark Lamb Response:

- 2.9 On May 21, 2020, Mr. Lamb responded to the PDC complaint in which he provided statements from Senator Ericksen. **Exhibit #1.**

- 2.10 Senator Ericksen indicating that he *“used personal funds for my airplane ticket, for meals (except for those small amounts reported to the PDC), and for ground transportation. A portion of the hotel nights in Washington DC for the Inauguration were paid for out of my personal funds.”* He stated that the purpose of his January 2017 *“trip was to participate in the Presidential Inauguration and meet with members of Congress and their staff on issues important to Washington State.”* He stated that the allegations listed in the complaint referred to the time he spent *“on EPA transition issues and my role with the EPA. The time spent on EPA items during the week of the Inauguration was a small percentage of the trip. The percentage of personal funds used on this trip far exceed the small amount of time spent on any EPA related activities.”*
- 2.11 Senator Ericksen stated he traveled to Washington DC in January of 2017 during the week leading up the Presidential Inauguration, and that while he was in DC he met with several members of Congress and other Congressional staff members. Senator Ericksen stated that he was in attendance for several Inaugural events throughout the week and he *“had very limited contact with EPA officials regarding being appointed to the EPA Transition team. All but one of the these contacts, to the best of my recollection, were brief and by phone.”*
- 2.12 As part of the complaint, a letter from the EPA that was provided as a complaint exhibit stated *“Please report for orientation on Monday January 23, 2017 at 8:30 am. You will be met at the entry of the William Jefferson Clinton North guard station.”* Senator Ericksen added the following statement:
- “To the best of my recollection, my contacts with the EPA during the week of the inauguration were brief and by phone. On the Thursday morning of that week I spent about 30 minutes in a meeting with EPA staff on procedures for how to enter the EPA building on Saturday the 21st of January. I spent a couple of hours at the EPA building on Saturday January 21. I do not have details on the names of all of the people from these brief meetings.”* So, the dates in his response appear to off be two days.)
- 2.13 Senator Ericksen reiterated that the majority of his time spent in Washington DC was on President Trumps Inaugural and related activities, meeting with members of Congress, Congressional Staffers, and other individuals in Washington DC for the inauguration. He stated that *“A small amount of time was spent talking with EPA officials.”*
- 2.14 Senator Ericksen stated he traveled to Washington DC for a portion of the week of November 12, 2017, and that the purpose of his trip was to meet with members of Congress and Congressional staff members about Washington state issues. He stated while in Washington DC his daily schedule included meetings on Capitol Hill, and that he *“went to the EPA offices to meet with individuals I had worked with during the transition. I spoke with people about issues important to Washington state, some of the visits were simply to say hello to a person I had worked with, and some people asked me if I planned to take an appointment with the Administration.”*
- 2.15 Senator Ericksen stated that he made a short visit to the EPA office while in DC in November of 2017, but that was *“not the focus nor a significant percentage of my time in Washington DC. He reiterated that the majority of his time spent in DC was in meeting with Members of Congress and Congressional staff.”*

- 2.16 Senator Ericksen stated that the November 2017 was *“primarily a “legislative trip to Washington DC... Airfare and hotel was paid for out of surplus funds. Other expenditures for most food and incidentals was personal funds.”*
- 2.17 On July 8, 2020, Mr. Lamb responded to staff’s follow-up questions concerning Senator Ericksen’s surplus funds expenditures to pay for travel. **Exhibit #1.** PDC staff questions included a surplus funds expenditure made to Embassy Suites Hotels during the 2017 Presidential Inaugural week, in which he previously stated that he used personal funds to pay for a portion of the hotel. Mr. Lamb stated *“As previously stated both personal and surplus funds were used to pay for the Embassy Suites hotel during the inauguration. While the entirety of the expense could have been appropriately paid from surplus given the nature and extent of his contacts during the visit, it was not. Senator Ericksen is not currently in possession of this hotel receipt from over three and a half years ago.”*
- 2.18 Mr. Lamb went on to state concerning Senator Ericksen’s travel: *“As part of the Transition Team at the EPA, Sen. Ericksen entered the EPA office complex on Saturday January 21 to begin his duties with the transition team. As previously stated, Sen. Ericksen was not in possession of, was not aware of and had not viewed the letter referenced prior to his beginning to work for the Transition Team at the EPA. To the best of recollection, Sen. Ericksen was at the EPA office complex on January 23. This day included some orientation activities. Sen. Ericksen also met with Congressional staff that day, not at the EPA building and not about EPA issues, to discuss issues relevant to his duties in the State Legislature.”* Mr. Lamb stated that to the best of Senator Ericksen’s recollection, his final day with the EPA was May 20, 2017.
- 2.19 Concerning the November 2017 trip to DC, Senator Ericksen made expenditures using surplus funds to pay for travel on Alaska Airlines (\$460 +) and Embassy Suites Hotel in DC (\$845) to Washington DC in November of 2017. Mr. Lamb stated Senator Ericksen took a trip to Washington DC the week of November 12, 2017, *“to work on issues pertaining to his duties in the Washington State Senate. Use of surplus funds for this purpose are allowed under State law.”*
- 2.20 Mr. Lamb stated that in the summer and fall of 2017, Senator Ericksen engaged in *“several discussions with various individuals regarding taking a position with the Trump Administration”,* and he previously indicated in his response that he briefly visited the EPA offices during his trip *“to meet with and say hello individuals he had worked with during his time on the EPA Transition Team.”* He stated that he *“spoke with some individuals about issues important to Washington state, and with others just to say hello. Some people asked if he was planning on taking an appointment with the Trump Administration. His visit to the EPA offices was short, not the focus of the trip, and was not a significant portion of his time in Washington DC.”*
- 2.21 Mr. Lamb stated that the *“purpose of the trip was to work on issues relevant to his duties as a State Senator. Use of surplus funds for this type of trip are allowed under state law. As mentioned earlier, the majority of his time in Washington DC was spent on work related to his position as a State Senator.”*

2.22 Mr. Lamb stated *“At the time of his visit to Washington DC in November of 2017, Sen. Ericksen served as the Chair of the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications Committee. Several important issues were being worked on at that time including new Federal Water Standards, new Federal Air Standards, energy production issues, and issues involving internet access. Sen. Ericksen met with Members of Congress, staff and non-government individuals on these topics.”*

III. **Scope**

3.1 PDC staff reviewed the following:

- The March 6, 2018 complaint filed by Sandra Robson against Doug Ericksen and the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account.
- The Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditures reports (C-4 reports) filed by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account.
- The responses provided by Mark Lamb legal counsel for Doug Ericksen and the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds Account.

3.2 During the course of the two investigations, PDC staff made the following contacts with Mr. Lamb, legal counsel:

- On May 24, 2018, an email was sent to Mr. Lamb that included several questions requesting information for a number of surplus funds expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account, and a response by June 7, 2018.
- On July 9, 2018, a follow-up email was sent to Mr. Lamb that included the same questions requesting information for a number of surplus funds expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account, and a response by July 19, 2018.
- On August 3, 2018, an additional follow-up email was sent to Mr. Lamb that included the same questions requesting information for a number of surplus funds expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account, and a response by August 13, 2018.
- On October 29, 2019, another follow-up email was sent to Mr. Lamb that included the same questions requesting information for a number of surplus funds expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account, and a response by November 12, 2019.
- On February 6, 2020, an email was sent to Mr. Lamb notifying him concerning the scheduling of an Initial Hearing for February 12, 2020.
- On February 12, 2020, an email was sent to Mr. Lamb informing him of the Initial Hearing results.

- On May 20, 2020, another mail was sent to Mr. Lamb that included the same questions requesting information for a number of surplus funds expenditures made by the Doug Ericksen Surplus Funds account, requesting a response be provided as soon as possible, and informing that failure to respond will involve staff escalating this matter.
- On June 15, 2020, PDC staff sent a follow-up mail to Mr. Lamb requesting additional information to the May 21, 2020 email concerning Senator Ericksen's response to the surplus funds expenditure allegations.

IV.

Statutes and Rules

- 4.1 **RCW 42.17A.005(50)** defines "Surplus funds" in the case of a candidate to mean: "[T]he balance of contributions that remain in the possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to the election for which the contributions were received, and that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts or expenses incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election.

In the case of a continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean those contributions remaining in the possession or control of the committee that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all remaining debts or expenses when it makes its final report under RCW 42.17A.255."

- 4.2 **RCW 42.17A.430** states: "The surplus funds of a candidate or a candidate's authorized committee may only be disposed of in any one or more of the following ways:
- (1) Return the surplus to a contributor in an amount not to exceed that contributor's original contribution;
 - (3) Transfer the surplus without limit to a political party or to a caucus political committee;
 - (4) Donate the surplus to a charitable organization registered in accordance with chapter 19.09 RCW;
 - (5) Transmit the surplus to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund, the Washington state legacy project, state library, and archives account under RCW 43.07.380, or the legislative international trade account under RCW 43.15.050, as specified by the candidate or political committee; or
 - (6) Hold the surplus in the depository or depositories designated in accordance with RCW 42.17A.215 for possible use in a future election campaign for the same office last sought by the candidate and report any such disposition in accordance with RCW 42.17A.240. If the candidate subsequently announces or publicly files for office, the appropriate information must be reported to the commission in accordance with RCW 42.17A.205 through 42.17A.240. If a subsequent office is not sought the surplus held shall be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this section.
 - (7) Hold the surplus campaign funds in a separate account for nonreimbursed public office-related expenses or as provided in this section, and report any such disposition in accordance with RCW **42.17A.240**. The separate account required under this subsection shall not be used for deposits of campaign funds that are not surplus. (8) No candidate or authorized committee may transfer funds to any other candidate or other political committee. The disposal of surplus funds under this section shall not be considered a contribution for purposes of this chapter."

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of July 2020.

s/_____
Electronically Signed Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

List of Exhibits

Exhibit #1 May 21 and July 8, 2020, e-mailed responses received from Mark Lamb, legal counsel on behalf of his client Senator Doug Ericksen, in response to the allegations listed in PDC complaint and PDC staff's questions.

Exhibit #1: Doug Ericksen Responses
Doug Ericksen Report of Investigation
PDC Case 33194

On May 21, 2020, Mr. Lamb responded to the PDC complaint in which he provided statements from Senator Ericksen indicating that he *“used personal funds for my airplane ticket, for meals (except for those small amounts reported to the PDC), and for ground transportation. A portion of the hotel nights in Washington DC for the Inauguration were paid for out of my personal funds.”*

Senator Ericksen stated that the purpose of his January 2017 *“trip was to participate in the Presidential Inauguration and meet with members of Congress and their staff on issues important to Washington State.”* He stated that the allegations listed in the complaint referred to the time he spent *“on EPA transition issues and my role with the EPA. The time spent on EPA items during the week of the Inauguration was a small percentage of the trip. The percentage of personal funds used on this trip far exceed the small amount of time spent on any EPA related activities.”*

Senator Ericksen stated he traveled to Washington DC in January of 2017 during the week leading up the Presidential Inauguration, and that while he was in DC he met with several members of Congress and other Congressional staff members.

Senator Ericksen stated that he was in attendance for several Inaugural events throughout the week and he *“had very limited contact with EPA officials regarding being appointed to the EPA Transition team. All but one of the these contacts, to the best of my recollection, were brief and by phone.”* He added the following statement:

“To the best of my recollection, my contacts with the EPA during the week of the inauguration were brief and by phone. On the Thursday morning of that week I spent about 30 minutes in a meeting with EPA staff on procedures for how to enter the EPA building on Saturday the 21st of January. I spent a couple of hours at the EPA building on Saturday January 21. I do not have details on the names of all of the people from these brief meetings.” (NOTE to PDC staff – the EPA letter provided as a complaint exhibit states *“Please report for orientation on Monday January 23, 2017 at 8:30 am. You will be met at the entry of the William Jefferson Clinton North guard station.”* So, the dates in his response appear to off be two days.)

Senator Ericksen reiterated that the majority of his time spent in Washington DC was on Presidential Inaugural related activities, meeting with members of Congress, Congressional Staffers, and other individuals in Washington DC for the inauguration. *A small amount of time was spent talking with EPA officials.”*

Senator Ericksen stated he traveled to Washington DC for a portion of the week of November 12, 2017, and that the purpose of his trip was to meet with members of Congress and Congressional staff members about Washington state issues. He stated that *“his daily schedule included meetings on Capitol Hill. Yes. I had served on the EPA Transition Team earlier in 2017.”*

Senator Ericksen stated that he *“went to the EPA offices to meet with individuals I had worked with during the transition. I spoke with people about issues important to Washington state, some of the visits were simply to say hello to a person I had worked with, and some people asked me if I planned to take an appointment with the Administration.”*

Senator Ericksen stated that his short visit to the EPA office in DC for a short visit was *“not the focus nor a significant percentage of my time in Washington DC. He reiterated that the majority of his time spent in DC was in meeting with Members of Congress and Congressional staff, thus it was primarily a “legislative trip to Washington DC in November of 2017... Airfare and hotel was paid for out of surplus funds. Other expenditures for most food and incidentals was personal funds.”*

On July 8, 2020, Mr. Lamb responded to staff’s follow-up questions (Chad I have included the questions and the response) as follows:

Senator Ericksen confirmed he used surplus funds to pay for an Embassy Suites Hotel during the 2017 Presidential Inaugural week, and that he used personal funds to pay for a portion of the hotel.

- Please indicate the amount of personal funds Senator Ericksen used to pay for a portion of the Embassy Suites Hotel bill in Washington, DC, and the date he checked out.
- In addition, please provide a copy of the hotel bill/invoice verifying that information.

As previously stated both personal and surplus funds were used to pay for the Embassy Suites hotel during the inauguration. While the entirety of the expense could have been appropriately paid from surplus given the nature and extent of his contacts during the visit, it was not. Senator Ericksen is not currently in possession of this hotel receipt from over three and a half years ago.

Senator Erickson’s appointment letter from the EPA was dated January 19. Did he receive the appointment when he was in DC? Was that position arranged during this trip to DC, or was it arranged before this trip?

In the response, Senator Ericksen appears to have listed the wrong date for the EPA orientation, he indicated it occurred January 21, 2017, which is a Saturday, when the EPA appointment letter stated the orientation was scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017. The appointment letter also indicated that his employment with the EPA began on January 23, 2017.

The purpose of Mr. Ericksen’s trip to Washington DC during the week of November 12 in 2017 was to work on issues pertaining to his duties in the Washington State Senate. Use of surplus funds for this purpose are allowed under State law. During the summer and fall of 2017, Mr. Ericksen had several discussions with various individuals regarding taking a position with the Trump Administration.

Mr. Ericksen stated previously that he went to the EPA offices briefly during this trip to meet with and say hello individuals he had worked with during his time on the EPA Transition Team. He spoke with some individuals about issues important to Washington state, and with others just to say hello. Some people asked if he was planning on taking an appointment with the Trump Administration. His visit to the EPA offices was short, not the focus of the trip, and was not a significant portion of his time in Washington DC.

- Please clarify whether or not the orientation took place on January 21 or January 23, 2017?

As part of the Transition Team at the EPA, Sen. Ericksen entered the EPA office complex on Saturday January 21 to begin his duties with the transition team. As previously stated, Sen. Ericksen was not in possession of, was not aware of and had not viewed the letter referenced prior to his beginning to work for the Transition Team at the EPA.

- In addition, did Senator Ericksen start working at the EPA on January 23, 2017, or just attend the orientation? If he did not start on the 23rd, what date did he begin working?

To the best of recollection, Sen. Ericksen was at the EPA office complex on January 23. This day included some orientation activities. Sen. Ericksen also met with Congressional staff that day, not at the EPA building and not about EPA issues, to discuss issues relevant to his duties in the State Legislature.

Did Senator Ericksen's appointment end on May 20, 2017, as noted in the appointment letter or at a different date?

Yes, to the best of his recollection the final day of temporary appointment was May 20, 2017.

Concerning the November 2017 trip to DC, it appears that Senator Ericksen was re-hired or appointed to an EPA position on December 4, 2017, shortly after that November trip. Senator Ericksen used surplus funds to pay for travel on Alaska Airlines (\$460 +) and Embassy Suites Hotel in DC (\$845) to Washington DC in November of 2017.

- Did Senator Ericksen have any contact or discussions about the position before or during this trip to DC, or was that appointment arranged after the trip?

The purpose of Sen. Ericksen's trip to Washington DC during the week of November 12 in 2017 was to work on issues pertaining to his duties in the Washington State Senate. Use of surplus funds for this purpose are allowed under State law.

During the summer and fall of 2017, Sen. Ericksen had several discussions with various individuals regarding taking a position with the Trump Administration.

Sen. Ericksen stated previously that he went to the EPA offices briefly during this trip to meet with and say hello individuals he had worked with during his time on the EPA Transition Team. He spoke with some individuals about issues important to Washington state, and with others just to say hello. Some people asked if he was planning on taking an appointment with the Trump Administration. His visit to the EPA offices was short, not the focus of the trip, and was not a significant portion of his time in Washington DC.

Since it appears Senator Ericksen was re-hired or appointed to an EPA position shortly after that November trip, please explain why no personal funds were used to pay for a portion of the airfare or hotel.

The purpose of the trip was to work on issues relevant to his duties as a State Senator. Use of surplus funds for this type of trip are allowed under state law. As mentioned earlier, the majority of his time in Washington DC was spent on work related to his position as a State Senator.

In addition, please summarize the meetings Senator Ericksen had with Members of Congress or Congressional staffers or the White House during that November 2017 trip.

At the time of his visit to Washington DC in November of 2017, Sen. Ericksen served as the Chair of the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications Committee. Several important issues were being worked on at that time including new Federal Water Standards, new Federal Air Standards, energy production issues, and issues involving internet access. Sen. Ericksen met with Members of Congress, staff and non-government individuals on these topics.