

[March 2, 2007 email from Richard Hannan, Acting Alaska Regional Director to Alaska Region staff]

Please be advised that all foreign travel requests (SF 1175 requests) and any future travel requests involving or potentially involving climate change, sea ice, and/or polar bears will also require a memorandum from the Regional Director to the Director indicating who'll be the official spokesman on the trip and the one responding to questions on these issues, particularly polar bears, including a statement of assurance that these individuals understand the Administration's position on these issues.

Below are copies of two memorandums we recently prepared. The first example (FT Hohn) would be an example you could use for someone traveling to a region where these items could be a potential discussion item. The second example (FT Approval Perham) is an example of a justification we recently prepared where the traveler who will specifically be dealing with these issues. Please note you will need these memo's/justifications for all trips to areas where these could be discussion items (i.e. Canada, Russia, Norway, any northern country).

Please ensure any foreign travel requests coming forward that pertain to these issues, or traveling to these potential areas, have this memorandum in the package. Thanks!



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.


Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

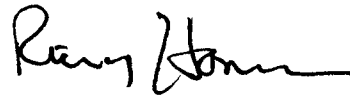
FEB 27 2007

FWS/RD

Memorandum

To: Director

From:  Regional Director – Region 7



Subject: Foreign Travel Clarification – Janet E. Hohn - Norway

This memorandum is regarding a foreign travel request for Janet E. Hohn to Trondheim and Tromso, Norway, April 10 – 14, 2007. The Service's official representative for this trip is Julia Gourley, a Senior Arctic Official. Ms. Gourley is a government employee who works in the office of Oceans and Environmental Science in the U.S. State Department. She is the head of the delegation to all Senior Arctic Officials meetings. **Mr. Gourley is knowledgeable on the administration's position on climate change and related issues.** When there are technical questions beyond her knowledge she confers with members of the delegation as needed. Julia was regularly advised on climate change issues by Drue Pearce and Jim Tate of the Secretary's Office.

The Service traveler, Mrs. Hohn, will be participating in an Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Official meeting as a member of the U.S. Delegation, and as the U.S. National Representative to the Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group. This trip will include Mrs. Hohn stopping in Trondheim on the way to Tromso, to confer with the Norwegian CAFF National Representative on the narrower questions of which chapter or chapters of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Norway may be able to provide lead or co-lead authors for. There will be no discussion of polar bears, sea ice, or climate change at this meeting. **Mrs. Hohn understands the administration's position on climate change, polar bears, and sea ice and will not be speaking on or responding to these issues.** If you have any additional questions, please contact Tauline Davis of my staff at (907) 786-3542.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/RD

FEB 26 2007

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director – Region 7

Subject: Foreign Travel Clarification – Craig Perham – Russia

This memorandum is regarding a foreign travel request for Craig Perham to Moscow, Anadyr, Vankarem, Russia, March 25 – April 20, 2007. This traveler will be the Service's official representative participating in a workshop and information exchange in Russia. The workshop will focus on managing human-bear interactions in the northern communities of Chukotka. Mr. Perham will be providing information on procedures used by and approved by the Service in Alaska, to prevent and or minimize negative interactions between humans and polar bears. Mr. Perham's expertise and presentation will focus on public safety issues, with the goal of preventing lethal interactions between humans and polar bears. This traveler understands the administration's position on climate change, polar bears, and sea ice and will not be speaking on or responding to these issues.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Tauline Davis of my staff at (907) 786-3542.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/RD

FEB 26 2007

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director – Region 7

Subject: Foreign Travel Clarification – Janet E. Hohn - Norway

This memorandum is regarding a foreign travel request for Janet E. Hohn to Trondheim and Tromso, Norway, April 10 – 14, 2007. The Service's official representative for this trip is Julia Gourley, a Senior Arctic Official. The traveler will be participating in an Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Official meeting as a member of the U.S. Delegation, and as the U.S. National Representative to the Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group. This traveler understands the administration's position on climate change, polar bears, and sea ice and will not be speaking on or responding to these issues.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Tauline Davis of my staff at (907) 786-3542.

JAY INSLEE
1ST DISTRICT, WASHINGTON



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Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov
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March 8, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am deeply troubled that the Department of the Interior could be preventing senior arctic officials from discussing climate change and the plight of polar bears on official overseas trips. I have seen copies of two foreign travel clarification documents on agency letterhead that state, "This traveler understands the administration's position on climate change, polar bears, and sea ice and will not be speaking on or responding to these issues."

I urge the administration to reverse the policy evident in this memo and replace it with a policy of commitment to open dialogue. Additionally, as a member on the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, with jurisdiction over climate-change issues, I would like to know specifics of any rules implemented or briefings given to U.S. officials regarding their discussions on the "administration's position on climate change, polar bears and sea ice."

These memoranda confirm that the administration continues to prevent taxpayer-funded scientists from freely discussing issues related to global warming, even though the president has acknowledged that earth is warming due primarily to human activities. In this instance, the administration is asking scientists to refrain from discussing the issues at the heart of what is threatening the polar bear – sea ice and global warming.

I am confident Americans will be on the cutting edge when it comes to addressing global warming. But innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers need scientific integrity, now more than ever, to develop new technologies and create sound policies. I hope you will consider a new policy of openness, and I look forward to hearing from you on scheduling a time for a briefing.

Respectfully,


JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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March 9, 2007

Mr. Dick Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Yesterday, I was surprised to learn that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was attempting to muzzle one of its scientists from participating in a full discussion of conserving Arctic animals and plants at an international conference to be held in Norway. In February 26 and 27 memoranda entitled "Foreign Travel Clarification" to FWS Director H. Dale Hall from the Region 7 acting director, Mr. Hall was advised that Dr. Janet E. Hohn, an expert in Arctic conservation, understood "the administration's position on climate change, polar bears and sea ice and will not be speaking on or responding to these issues."¹

Dr. Hohn is scheduled to attend the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials meeting. The Council is an intergovernmental organization to address the common concerns of the countries and peoples of Arctic regions. It describes environmental monitoring and assessment as a key element of its agenda and has been able to attract global attention to the state of the Arctic environment. She is also meeting with the Norwegian representative of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group, but will not be allowed to speak or respond to any conversation about climate change, polar bears and sea ice in that meeting.²

This "clarification" appears to be the latest effort by the Bush Administration to block a full and free discussion of issues relating to climate change by the scientific community, despite the President's recent acknowledgement that global warming was an issue that needed to be addressed. The memos from the Region 7 acting director were apparently in response to an Administration-wide directive on foreign travel that forces scientists and other experts to censor their discussions about climate change, polar bears and sea ice at international conferences.

Director Hall stated to the press that the memos were written to assure that U.S. conference participants talked about "only what was on the agenda."³ To even a layman, it

¹ "Memos Tell Officials How to Discuss Climate," *The New York Times*, Marc 8, 2007, A13

² "Foreign Travel Clarification - Janet E. Hohn - Norway," Memorandum from Regional Director - Region 7 to FWS Director, February 27, 2007.

³ "U.S. Bars Talk of Climate Change Effects on Bears," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 9, 2007

seems hard to conceive of how any conference could address the conservation of Arctic animals and plants without discussing the reasons why there is so much concern about their survival. As we all know, one of the most critical factors in the survival of Arctic animals, such as polar bears, and Arctic plants, are the changes in the sea ice and the melting of permafrost, both of which are caused by global warming. Understanding the scope and projected time frames of global warming is obviously essential to a full and free discussion of how to conserve these species. In fact, it is inconceivable that any discussion could be held without addressing climate change and its effects in the Arctic on sea ice and permafrost, which cover the vast majority of the Arctic environment.

Additionally, another Fish and Wildlife Service employee, who is to talk to villagers on the Siberian coast of Russia about how to avoid encounters with polar bears, was told that he also could not talk about climate change or the loss of sea ice, both of which are obvious causes of the increasing encounters of humans with hungry bears foraging for food. A logical topic of discussion would have to be whether these encounters should be expected to increase and the cause of the increase. Again, if no discussion of climate change and the resulting loss of polar ice is allowed, his advice to these villagers would be of limited utility.

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Science and Technology is delegated "the function of reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving nonmilitary research and development." Committee Rule 3(a)(5) authorizes the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight to carry out "general and special investigative and oversight authority on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology."

Therefore, by this letter, I am requesting that you provide copies of the following records (as defined in the Appendix) to the Subcommittee:

1. The Region 7 document entitled "Subject Foreign Travel – New Requirements – Please Review and Comply."
2. All documents relating to foreign travel issued by the Department of the Interior or any of its subdivisions from January 1, 2007, to the present.
3. All records relating to foreign travel and climate change, polar bears and/or sea ice from January 1, 2006, to the present.
4. All communications received from any federal office, agency or the White House concerning climate change, polar bears and/or sea ice from January 1, 2006, to the present.
5. All records relating to the Administration's policies on climate change, polar bears and sea ice from January 1, 2006, to the present.
6. All records relating to the negotiation and finalization of the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials meeting agenda.

Please provide these records to the offices of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, B-374 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007. If your staff has any questions or needs additional information, please contact Edith Holleman, Subcommittee counsel, at (202) 225-8459, or Dan Pearson, Subcommittee staff director, at (202) 225-4494.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON

Chairman

Committee on Science and Technology



BRAD MILLER

Chairman

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

cc: Ralph Hall
Ranking Member

cc: James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight