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OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT

Review No. 15-6068

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter “the Board”), by a vote of no less than four members, on April 22, 2015, adopted the following report and ordered it to be transmitted to the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives.

SUBJECT: Representative James Bridenstine

NATURE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION: In May 2013, Representative Bridenstine traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan. The travel was disclosed to the Committee on Ethics as funded and sponsored solely by a single private, non-profit source. However, various additional entities that were not disclosed to the Committee on Ethics appear to have been funders or organizers, or both, of the trip. Some of these additional entities appear to have been prohibited by House rules and regulations, standards of conduct, and federal law from providing such congressional travel.

If the trip was funded or organized by one or more entities prohibited from providing congressional travel, then Representative Bridenstine may have received an impermissible gift of travel expenses in violation of House rules and regulations, standards of conduct, and federal law.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the above allegation concerning the trip, as there is a substantial reason to believe that although Representative Bridenstine did not knowingly accept, he nevertheless received an impermissible gift of travel proscribed by House rules and regulations, standards of conduct, and federal law.

VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: 6

VOTES IN THE NEGATIVE: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR STAFF DESIGNATED TO PRESENT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Omar S. Ashmawy, Staff Director & Chief Counsel.