

Thanks for reaching out. Not only does Senator Pacheco's schedule not accommodate your request, but we've already detailed his responsibilities and missions to the Ethics Commission, publicized these events through local press and social media, and detailed them extensively with your student. You are asking my boss to explain why he's meeting his responsibilities based on his appointments and responsibilities, even though we've already done so in various forms and fashions. Senator Pacheco has explained these missions. His constituents understand it, and he is proud of the work. Not one cent of taxpayer money was sent on any of these missions.

As I'm sure you understand from all your years of work, missions such as these stem from his appointments and Senate responsibilities. He may have been asked to go on more of these missions simply because of the nature of his work. He is Senate President Pro Tempore and founding chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. Senator Pacheco is also co-chair of the Council of State Government's Eastern Regional Conference's Energy & Environment Committee that represents 11 Northeastern states, as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Eastern Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Québec, and he also serves on the National Conference of State Legislatures' Task Force on Energy Supply. Meetings of these bodies, meetings that inform policy in Massachusetts for offshore wind, energy storage, solar technologies and various energy topics, are incredibly important in growing our state's economy while protecting our environment and public health. Senator Pacheco is also Senate Chair of the Massachusetts-Québec Research Council, a body established through a cooperation agreement between the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Assembly of Québec. The council focuses on issues affecting residents in both regions including higher education, transportation, energy, tourism and disruptive technologies. He is also a member of the Massachusetts District Export Council through federal appointments, founder of the Legislative Caucus on International Trade and Global Competitiveness and a member of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. These missions are essential to building relationships that strengthen my boss' district and Massachusetts as a whole. He wouldn't be doing his job if those meetings weren't attended.

Senator Pacheco has been a longtime environmental advocate who has fought hard to develop climate change solutions to help protect the citizens of the Commonwealth. He authored "The Global Warming Solutions Act," which was enacted into law to put in place an economy wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions and to implement comprehensive sustainable solutions in Massachusetts. For this work, Senator Pacheco has received numerous awards from various organizations including honors from Environment Massachusetts and the Sustainable Future Campaign, an initiative of the United Nations Youth and Student Association. He received the Commander of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator, the highest civilian award given by the Portuguese government, and the Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold with Star from the Republic of Austria, which is the fourth highest decoration of merit the country can confer on the federal level. These relationships are valued on both sides of the Atlantic, and such connections produce tangible results.

The Luso-American Development Foundation's annual Legislators' Dialogue focuses on sustainability, trade and the economy. As I'm sure you know, Massachusetts has a large Portuguese population. My boss is the Senate Chair of the Portuguese-American Legislative Caucus, and there are quite a few

legislators in this caucus who attend the same meetings. This relationship produced a fruitful meeting in my boss' district with the foundation in March. And considering my boss' high-profile committee work regarding climate change and the environment, Portugal displays some best practices when it comes to renewable energy technologies. In September, an Austrian contact of my boss' visited Taunton to explore some future business opportunities. All of these missions, all of these meetings, were publicized in local press and published by us on social media. There are foreign capital investors in his district. These meetings matter.

There are, I'm sure, many people who have been appointed to very important bodies and turn out to be no-shows. The Senator has complied and continues to comply with all Ethics disclosures. There are no taxpayer dollars involved. And obviously the issue of global warming and climate change is an international one – there are countless jurisdictions involved with this issue, and he has been honored to represent the Commonwealth on a number of occasions.

As background for you, we are currently working on this year's Day of Portugal where we will be hosting the President of Portugal. This is a big deal, and it's a relationship that would never have formed if it weren't, in part, for my boss' international relations work. Another example is an energy conference we are hosting at Princeton University in May.

Again, Mike, I really do appreciate you reaching out, but there's really no more that can be said. We've disclosed, detailed and publicized.

Have a good Monday,

Sarina

Sarina Tracy

Communications Director

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