

From: [Linda Nishioka](#)
To: [SULLIVAN Josh * OGEC](#); [MYERS Susan * OGEC](#)
Cc: [ATCHISON Dan](#); [Krishna Namburi](#)
Subject: Request guidance on potential travel and paid expenses
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 4:56:56 PM
Attachments: [Salem Meeting 1.png](#)
[06102026 List of Delegates Guangxi July 21-27 .pdf](#)
Importance: High

Hi Ms. Myers and Josh,

Senator Patterson recently invited me, along with Salem City Councilor Micki Varney and several others from Salem and Oregon, to attend a meeting with a delegation from Guangxi Province, China. One of Guangxi's cities, Guilin, is exploring the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship with Salem focused on tourism, education, cultural exchange, and broader economic opportunities for Salem and the region.

Today I received the attached invitation for a potential delegation trip to Guangxi Province and Guilin City in July. As outlined in the email below, the Guangxi government would cover lodging, meals, in-country transportation, and program activities, while participants would be responsible for their international airfare and personal expenses.

Before considering participation, I would appreciate guidance from OGEC on any ethical considerations, reporting requirements, or potential concerns associated with accepting these in-country benefits while serving as an elected City official. My assumption is that the value of lodging, meals, and transportation would likely need to be disclosed or reported, and I would appreciate clarification on the appropriate process and any applicable limitations.

My intent would be to pay for my own airfare and personal expenses. I would also want to ensure transparency with the City, including discussions with fellow Councilors and consultation with the City Attorney and City Manager (both are Cc'd on this email) regarding whether Council acknowledgment or approval would be appropriate, even though there would be no direct cost to the City of Salem.

I would also appreciate guidance on whether it would be appropriate for my husband to accompany me on the trip at our personal expense, or whether, from an ethics perspective, it would be preferable for me to travel alone as the City representative.

At this point, I am seeking guidance before making any decisions or commitments. Please let me know if you identify any concerns, risks, disclosure requirements, or potential violations of Oregon Government Ethics laws related to participation in this type of delegation visit.

I would appreciate any guidance you can provide as soon as possible due to the timeline

associated with the invitation.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Best regards,

Linda Nishioka

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)

City Councilor - Ward 2

lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: Shanbo Zhang <szhang@oregonchinacouncil.org>

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 2:18 PM

To: Sen Patterson <Sen.DebPatterson@oregonlegislature.gov>

Cc: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Micki Varney <MVarney@cityofsalem.net>; KNOPP Tim * GOV <tim.knopp@oregon.gov>; WYTOSKI Beth * GOV <Beth.Wytoski@oregon.gov>; Kara Kuh <Kara@travelsalem.com>; Abisha Romano <ARomano@sedcor.com>; Angie Villery <angie@travelsalem.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting follow-up

Dear Senator Patterson, Officer Knopp, Oregon, and Salem leadership,

We are grateful for your exceptional hospitality in hosting the diplomatic visit of the Guangxi Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and the City of Guilin. The meeting was constructive, leading to a variety of potential opportunities to support Oregon and Salem interests in tourism, culture, sports, trade and commerce, and climate. The meeting photo is attached.

In continuing the efforts to support Salem and Guilin sister city relations, Guangxi and our council sincerely invite you and your family to consider the following missions to Guangxi.

July 21-27 Friendly Mission to Guangxi, 2026

A curated program for Oregon professionals in business, education, sports, culture, and related fields. The itinerary will be confirmed based on the final delegation, including visits to leading companies, universities, agricultural sites, and community sites, as well as cultural exchange activities. Please see the confirmed list attached for your reference.

Participants only need to cover international airfare and personal expenses. All in-China transportation and in-Guangxi costs (lodging, meals, transportation, and program activities) are fully covered by the organizer.

The timing of this visit is particularly meaningful, as there have been constructive efforts

between the Guangxi and the Oregon state governments. These initiatives align with Oregon's and Salem's interests in the people-to-people exchanges with China in education, agriculture, tourism, and sports. With the current delegation profile, Guangxi is tailoring an itinerary to better match participants' backgrounds and interests.

Guangxi serves as China's gateway to ASEAN, offering exposure to cross-border trade, education exchange, sustainability, and regional collaboration. At the same time, it is one of China's most visually and culturally distinctive regions, from [Guilin](#)'s iconic landscapes and the Li River to diverse local traditions, providing both professional insight and a unique cultural experience.

Participation by OR and Salem city leadership would add tremendous value by seeing the potential of a sister city and understanding the full dynamics of how it could support Salem's global interests.

Please kindly let me know at your earliest convenience if you are available to join. Thank you for your consideration.

You may reach me anytime through personal cell: 206-775-3681

Shanbo Zhang

Vice President | Board Member

[OREGON CHINA COUNCIL \(OCC\)](#)

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On Tue, Jun 9, 2026 at 9:07 AM Sen Patterson <Sen.DebPatterson@oregonlegislature.gov> wrote:

Hello all,

Thank you everyone for joining the meeting on Saturday with our guests from Guangxi. I am following up to share Shanbo Zhang's contact information. He can help facilitate further communication with our Chinese counterparts.

Shanbo Zhang

Vice President | Board Member

[OREGON CHINA COUNCIL \(OCC\)](#)

Cell: +1(206)775-3681 | Wechat: BizShanbo | Email: szhang@oregonchinacouncil.org

Senator Patterson looks forward to continued conversations Salem and Guilin, and between Oregon and Guangxi. Let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Warm regards,

Megan Wai

Chief of Staff

State Senator Deb Patterson, SD 10

(503) 986-1710

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