



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

August 7, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

This is in response to your letter concerning the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy regarding official travel to specific cities within the United States. You expressed concern that certain cities may be viewed as resort or vacation destinations and, therefore, inappropriate for Federal travel.

VA does not restrict its employees to travel to or arrange for conferences in any area of the country. Current policies require that employees, who travel or schedule VA-sponsored conferences for the purposes of work, exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would if traveling on personal business.

In fact, I spent July 21 in Las Vegas where I was the keynote speaker at a VA-sponsored event, the Annual Champions of Veterans Enterprise Awards Ceremony. This event was held by VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Thank you for your continuing support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Eric K. Shinseki