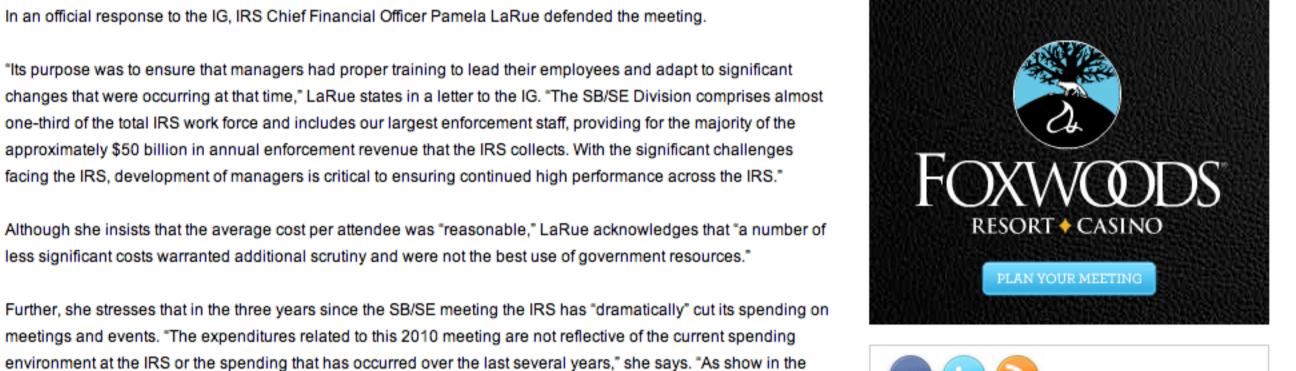
## SUCCESSFUL

> Sign-Up for the MN Daily Newsletter > Apply for an upcoming Hosted Buyer Program > Get a Free Subscription







of these meetings decreased 87 percent over that time period. Costs for FY 2013 will be even lower." Additionally, LaRue notes, costs for training-related travel at the IRS were 68 percent lower from FY 2010 to FY 2012. "It is also important to note that many of the issues raised in the report, such as the use of event planners, the receipt of room upgrades, and the welcome reception and breakfast provided by the hotel, did not entail the use of any additional government resources," LaRue concludes. "While the IRS is mindful of the sensitivity of the issues

report, the number of large meetings decreased 84 percent between Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 and FY 2012. The costs

## The Travel Industry Recommends Caution

raised, these did not impact the overall cost of the meeting."

Response from the travel industry to the IG's report was swift and strong — both in support of meetings and in condemnation of excessive government spending.

Said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow in a statement: "The IG report describes instances of inappropriate and wasteful spending on the part of IRS employees, who clearly went too far beyond the rules put in place to protect taxpayer dollars. Make no mistake — this behavior is both appalling and damaging. Yet it is incumbent on our leaders to not lose sight of the value that responsible travel and face-to-face meetings create for constituents. It is often the most efficient and effective way for government professionals to accomplish the requirements of their roles."

Dow cited a 2012 study by Oxford Economics showing that 57 percent companies that have reduced business travel spending since 2007 claim it has hurt their performance.

"When conducted responsibly, government conferences, meetings and travel deliver important services to businesses and individual taxpayers — including safety inspections, disaster relief assistance, corporate training on taxes and government regulations, services for the military and more," Dow continued. "While Congress and the IG should do all they can to root out wasteful spending, let's not hamstring the effectiveness of federal agencies in the process. We urge all parties to exercise caution in responding to today's IG report."



Stay Connected to SM

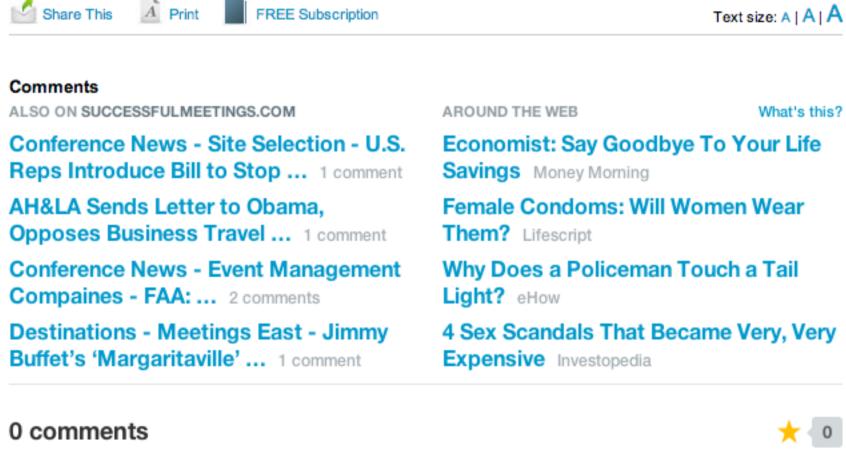


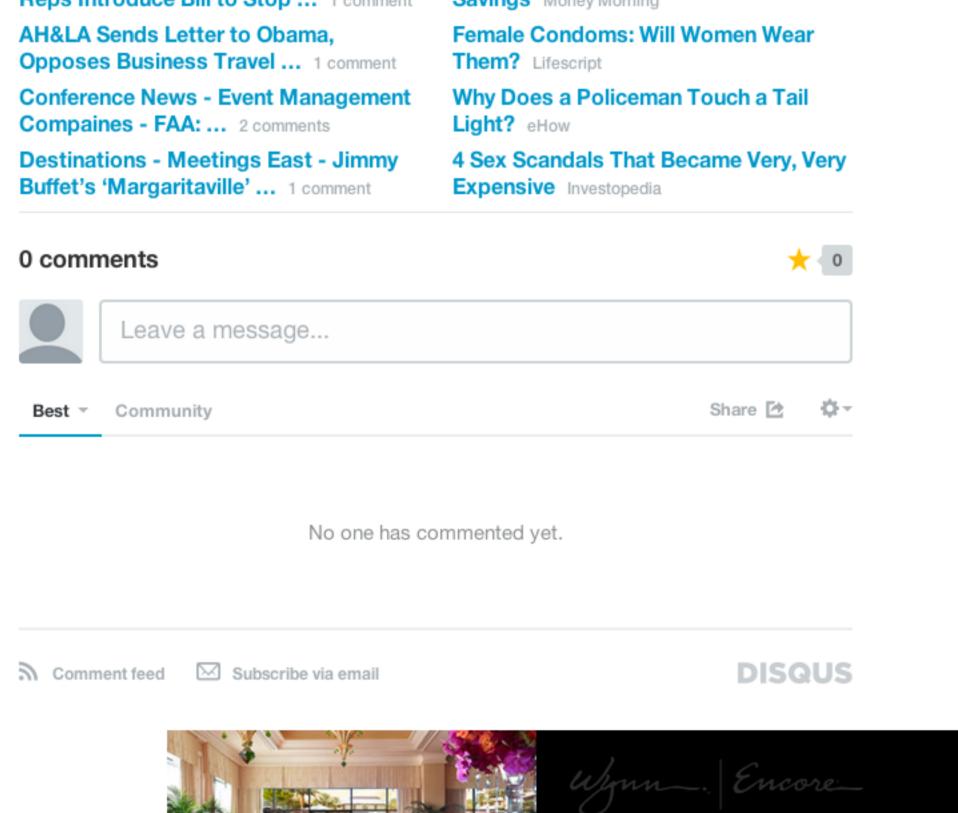


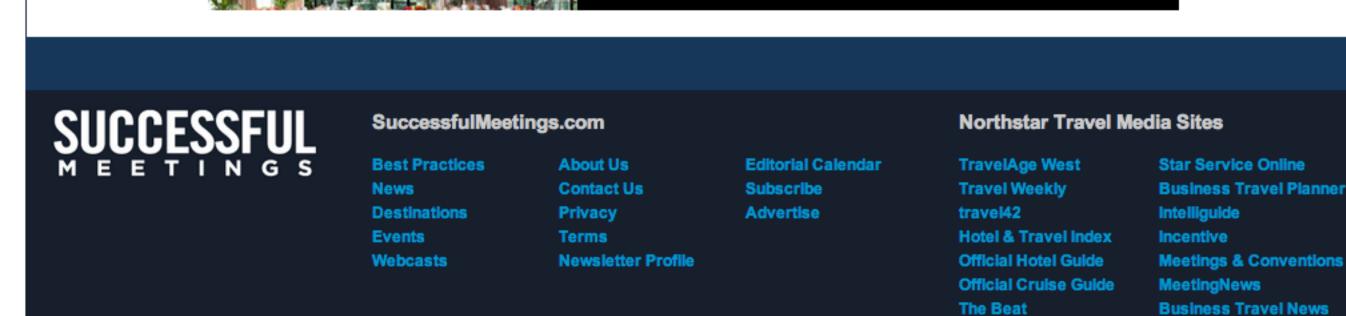


## > Watch More Videos

This page is protected by Copyright laws. Do Not Copy







**PhoCusWright**