Town Hall Forums/Meet Your Member Events

Many representatives and senators host public town hall forums or meet your member events when they are back in their district or state. This is a great opportunity to let your representatives know about the issues you are passionate about. We have heard from offices that this is a very important way for them to get a sense of the priorities of their constituents.

Tips:

- Check your representative's website to see if they keep an updated schedule.
- Sign up for your representative's email newsletter. They will often let folks know about upcoming events through these emails.
- As each congressional recess approaches, call your local office to ask if the member has any public events scheduled.
- "Like" your member on Facebook or follow them on Twitter.
- When you find an event, get there early. Most events will have a sign-up sheet to ask questions. The earlier you get there, the more likely it is you will get to ask your question.
- Consider wearing a t-shirt or sticker with the campaign message on it. If you have lots of folks joining you, have everyone wear the same color or all wear stickers. If you really feel it's important to be visible, you could hold signs. Just remember to be respectful of others and the venue.
- Bring supporting materials with you to hand-deliver to the member at the end. This is a great time to deliver hand-written letters, postcards or petitions.
- If the member has done something positive on a related conservation issue, please make sure to thank them for it.
- When it's your turn to speak, make sure to get your "ask" in – what would you like from that member. If you get a positive response, make sure to follow-up with the office as soon as possible.
- When you sign-in, ask if there is a staff member present who handles environmental issues. If there is, introduce yourself. This is a great way to build a relationship with a key staffer. (If you aren't able to ask your question, see if you can ask the staffer and deliver any materials you've brought with you.)