Constituent Correspondence or Lobbying Outline

1.) What issues will be addressed?
   a. Who are you? What is your relationship to the issue?
      i. Share your expertise or credential if you are operating under that identity
      ii. Otherwise, don’t overstate your opinion versus the science
          o Can do both but need to be EXTREMELY CLEAR about when you are acting as a citizen and when you are acting as a scientist
   b. How are you going to frame or talk about the issue?
      i. Is this a positive or negative impact/effect?
      ii. Is there any jargon or language you need to explain for the discussion
   c. Don’t make this too long, these meetings can often only be 10 or 15 minutes in some cases

2.) Why should that legislator care?
   a. Are you a constituent?
      i. Do you have a constituent with you?
      ii. Are you representing constituents or other individuals that the legislator interfaces with regularly?
   b. Personal vignette
      i. Share your story or experience around the issue
   c. Evidence
      i. Is there empiric evidence that supports your story or experience?
      ii. Would evidence be helpful and plausible to generate?

3.) What is the ask?
   a. End with some sort of action, request or ask
   b. Will the sponsor a bill?
      i. Co-sponsor? Identify a sponsor?
   c. Consider a specific vote
      i. A bill has been brought up for vote, can we count on you to vote in support? Or the opposite?
   d. Oppose specific legislation
      i. Opposite of above in terms of voting
      ii. Make a statement against or for issue or topic outside of the policy arena
   e. Accountability is a good thing for your asks
      i. Can we follow up with you closer to the vote?
      ii. Can I leave my information for you if you would like further clarification?
      iii. How can we stay in touch regarding the issue at hand?
Issues/Topics Rough Facts and Questions:

WA Carbon Tax Initiative

- Would reduce carbon emissions while stimulating clean energy economy
- Help with regressive tax policy in Washington State by swapping a point from sales tax
- Revenue Neutral so it shouldn’t affect state budget
- Could help improve health outcomes
- Funds the Working Families Tax Rebate, provides low-income families up to $1,500 a year

Funding Science (Maybe choose your area of science)

- Increasing funding for science would help innovation happen and spur economy
- Translation impact of basic and applied is high
- These translations can be felt in variety of market places
- Global competitiveness may be affected when we don’t fund science
- Our peers are catching up to our investments in science

Education (Can choose either basic or higher education)

- Are we spending enough per student?
- Belief that spending more or differently would improve outcomes for students
- Affects labor markets and lifetime prospects for students
- We are falling behind compared to our international peers in a variety of ways
  - STEM competency
  - Language competency
  - Critical Thinking
- Children and students learn different so accommodating different types of learning styles will increase the outcomes

Other Topics

- Feel free to pick a topic as a group, these are just meant to be suggestions
- Highlight a few components that will be affecting you or that you will be asking about to your elected official/public official
Activity Roles:
1. Lobby Meeting Group Leader
   - Introduce group
   - State goal of meeting
     - Ex: We’re are here to talk about our latest work and why we are concerned about climate change, make sure move meeting goes through agenda.
   - Keep meeting on track if any party starts to talk or dominate discussion
2. Everyone
   - Who you are?
     - Name
     - Expertise
     - Your personal story about why you care about issue at hand
3. Asker
   - You are often a constituent
   - Make the ask:
     - What will you do to support “Issue X” this year?
     - Will you consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring legislation addressing “Issue X”?
     - Can we count on your vote in support of “Issue X legislation”?
4. Legislator (*or Key staffer*)
   - We can anticipate what they will say or questions they will ask:
     - Issue Champion
       1. Hi, thank you for coming. As you know, I’m chair of the”issue” caucus. What can I do for you today?
       2. Will most likely answer yes, or will provide other avenues/resources for engagement
       3. How does this affect you? What personal experiences have you had dealing with “Issue X”?
     - Issue Opposition
       1. Thanks for coming today, what will we be discussing today?
       2. Why do you think that “Issue X” is more important than “Issue Y”?
       3. I just don’t see how I can support this in light of what my constituents are facing. How would you address that concern?
       4. Can disagree and may not be receptive or feel hostile at times.
     - Issue Neutral
       1. Appreciate your time, let’s hear what you guys are thinking about.
       2. This is definitely very interesting and seems important, but I am not sure that it is of critical importance right now. Could we address this next session?
       3. How does this affect “Issue Y”? This is a zero sum game in many situations.
       4. Who is in support or against “Issue X”?