

**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
  - o STEM competency
  - o Language competency
  - o 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 here to talk about our latest work and why we are concerned about climate change, make sure 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"?*