**How to Request a Meeting with your Elected Official**

**Why meet with your elected officials?**

Meeting face-to-face with your elected officials is one of the most effective ways we can influence their decisions. Remember, they work for us! Writing a letter to your elected representative is one of the best ways to request one of these meetings to discuss their and your commitment to wind energy and to advancing development in your state.

**How to find your elected officials:**

You can use this website to find your elected officials and declared candidates: <https://ballotpedia.org/Who_represents_me%3F>

Enter your home address and then scroll down to the district official you want to write to. Click on the elected official’s name to arrive on their page. Under their picture you’ll find a link to the office website where you can find their contact information.

You can either send an e-mail, a handwritten letter, or make a request on their website. If you have not gotten a response within the week, follow-up by phone with a call to their scheduler.

Remember, you’re asking for a meeting, but you can also share why you believe wind energy will make a positive contribution to your family, your community, and surrounding communities. Consider economic, health, and environmental benefits. Share some facts that move you from some of our fact sheets and repeat why wind energy is aligned with your values and the needs of the community.

**For your letter:**

1. Introduce yourself: Provide personal information to root yourself in the community (I have taught at our local elementary school for 10 years, I am active in my local church, etc.) and briefly share why this issue matters to you. Make sure they know you are a constituent.
2. Let them know that you would like to meet to discuss the importance of wind energy to your state. In your own words, share why this is important in terms of increased tax revenue for rural communities, land lease payments to farmers, jobs, etc. Make sure you have facts to support your argument.
3. Repeat the ‘ask’, say thank you, and request a response: Leave your address, phone number and email address so they can get back to you with their decision. Suggest some dates and times.
4. When you’ve heard back from the lawmaker’s office, contact the rest of your team to let them know when your meeting is scheduled, figure out who will be attending, and arrange a time to get together and practice before the meeting. Ideally have 3-4 people in each meeting.