



Citizen Lobbying: Where to go, What to

Lobbying is done at the state capitol building, 1007 East Grand Ave., Des Moines

Start by meeting with Senators and Representatives from your own area. Sierra Club will provide names of other Legislators that will also be important to meet with.

Most of your meetings will be conducted in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building. The House chambers are one side of the rotunda and the Senate chamber are on the other side. Go the appropriate chamber entrance.

To locate a representative, you will need to page them:

- At the entrance to each chamber there is a table with forms to be filled out. This form will be used to page the legislator you want to speak to. Fill out the form and give it to a doorman.
- The doorman will go into the chamber to locate the legislator (we do not go into the chamber).
- If the legislator is available, the legislator will come out into the rotunda to talk to you.
- If the legislator is not available, you can have the doorman deliver your materials to their desk.

Introduce yourself and tell them what your topic is. Give your pitch, in your own words. If you have a personal story about how the issue is affecting you or why it is a concern for you, share it.

Most legislators will not be familiar with every bill so you will need a succinct summary.

If you are lobbying for a specific bill, find out if the legislator supports the bill. Why or why not? What would it take for them to get onboard? Do they need more information?

Action steps/Next steps?

Give the legislator a copy of the bill and/or other materials. (Wait until the end to give it to them.)

Thank the legislator for their time.

Other things you can do:

If you call your legislators ahead of time you may be able to schedule a private appointment with them. They may ask you to meet them somewhere in the capitol building.

If you are lobbying in a group, we suggest you divide your presentation into sections with each of you taking a section.

Good luck and have fun!