Sierra Club Lobby Training 2022
Why Lobby?

Some 5,000 bills cross Illinois legislators’ desk each year. It is the only way to get bills known.

Legislators think people are not watching or don’t care.

Counter the paid lobbyists: The structure is in place to make democracy work.
Ways to Connect with your Legislator

In-district lobby visit
Lobby in Springfield
Personal letter
Originally composed email
Social media posts
Phone call message with secretary
Click through email
There’s power in numbers...
... AND there’s power in relationships!

We need both to win
Goals of Lobbying

To build relationships with your legislator and their staff members.

To be the voice of Sierra Club’s legislative positions.

To educate your legislator about specific bills.
Goals of Lobbying

To ask for a commitment to co-sponsorship—bills get negotiated; the more co-sponsors, the more opponents are likely to compromise.

To ask for support (or vote) for a bill if he/she can’t co-sponsor—legislators will not always co-sponsor bills they support.
Important Dates For 2022 Lobby Team

February 1 and 3, 6:30-8 pm

- Online briefings about the Sierra Club priority bills from experts

Mid February to early March

- Arrange online meetings with legislators

April 8th

- Bill deadline: bills have to pass before April 9th to become effective that same year they are passed
- *Important to schedule your in-district appointment with your legislators before this deadline!*
To Note:

- Chief cosponsors are denoted by hyphens between their names
- Regular cosponsors are denoted by commas between their names
Partners Are Important

2 or 3 is ideal number.

Split the bills in advance.

Second person to take notes.

Partner remembers to “ask” when you forget.

Respect your partner: don’t interrupt or hog the time.
Getting the Appointment

Getting appointments is sometimes very challenging.

Be polite but persistent; keep calling.

Always mention you are a constituent and Sierra Club member speaking for all the members in the district.

Always reach out to Sierra Club staff or team members if you need scheduling help.
When Calling for an In District Appointment

- Normally, make sure to schedule your appointment with the district office and not the Springfield office.
- ILGA website provides phone numbers for both, so ensure you are calling the correct one.
Before the Visit

Study bills and fact sheets online.

Write down chief sponsor and co-sponsors from both parties.

Important!! Check if he or she is already a co-sponsor.

Knowing what committees a legislator is on can be helpful information.

Fill out the online In-District Meeting Scheduler Form.
Email an Agenda

Legislators appreciate it

Leads to a more productive discussion.

Keeps you and legislator on track.

“Senator, I want to be respectful of your time....”

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. Clean Energy Jobs Act: Acting on Climate/Just Transition to 100% Clean Energy
   SB2152 (Corzine), HB11124 (Williams)
   Creates the Clean Jobs Workforce Hub Act, the Expanding Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Act, the Community Energy and Climate Planning Act, and the Clean Energy Empowerment Zones Act to reduce emissions, promote renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, and reduce carbon pollution related to transportation.

III. Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act
   SB364 (Williams)
   Adds a new purpose and increases funding to the Partners for Conservation Fund in order to implement Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Provides funding for reporting, research, water-quality monitoring, technical assistance through the Illinois Department of Agriculture and soil & water conservation districts, and cost-share funding to support farmers in reducing nutrient runoff from Illinois' agricultural lands.

IV. Cut the Grist of Single-use Plastics: 2020 Platform
   SB3877 (Fawley), HB1169 (Gorin-Germmerott)
   Ban on polystyrene food service containers beginning 2022.
   SB3674 (Bash), HB11112 (Williams)
   Creates a statewide container deposit program similar to those in Michigan and 9 other states.
   SB3754 (Morrison)
   Incentivizes state procurement of recyclable and compostable materials.
   SB2529 (Bash), SB1335 (Williams)
   Creates the Canvass Bag Fee Act, institutes a statewide 50-cent canvass bag fee.

V. Rebuilding Illinois EPA to Protect Public Health
   Bill Number: Chief Sponsor
   A University of Chicago report outlines recommendations for reversing Illinois EPA's decline and empowering the agency to fully protect public health. An effective EPA also creates a healthy and equitable business climate by issuing timely and appropriate permits, conducting necessary inspections, and enforcing regulations that keep communities safe and the playing field level.

Thank you!

Your Name
Address
Contact Information

Partner Name
Address
Contact Information
Meeting Materials to Send in Advance

Copy of agenda for everyone

Fact sheets
Confirm Visit the Day Before

Legislators can have quickly changing schedules and they do not always call to cancel.

If you have difficulties finding a time to meet with your legislator, remember to always stay friendly with their staff members and contact the Lobby Team Co-Chairs.
“You don’t pass a bill by being right.”

~ George Lakeoff, Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley

So think about messaging

What might appeal to legislator?

Choose words based on your audience: “Unions on board” versus “Jobs in your district”

Find your emotional center; personalize; tell your story.

Use value words.

Write this all down before visit.
“You don’t pass a bill by being right.”

~ George Lakeoff, Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley

Your legislators have the ability to find any facts they want about priority bills, so don’t worry about knowing all the information. They have a million ways of getting it already!

What legislators can’t look up is why YOU care

That is what you’re in these meetings to share

That is what resonates

Tell YOUR story

Continued...
Sharing Your Story

Pull from experience!

○ A fond memory in nature from childhood
○ A family member/close friend
○ A health condition (if you feel comfortable sharing)
○ Access or lack of access to different rights or resources
  ■ either growing up or currently
○ Experiences you’ve had in your local environment
○ Can you think of any others?
Message

Discipline

Stay on Sierra Club Message. If you are not 100 percent supportive of the Club’s position, see your representative as a private person, not a Club member.

If the conversation gets off track, gently guide everything back to the Sierra Club message.

Do not bring up another organization’s concerns or your own while on a Sierra Club visit.
Visits Build Relationships

Start with a Thank You
(Even if it’s just for the appointment)

Be respectful of the legislator’s schedule. Find out how much time you have for your visit.

Remember the ask. “Senator, will you co-sponsor HB...?”

Reference the fact sheets.
The Visit

Dress nicely, be on time and prepared.

“I do not know” is a great answer. Do not guess!

Remember that the goal is commitment. You may need to politely ask them to clarify if they will support or not a few times, and that’s okay.

Look for common ground.

Take a photo with your legislator!
After the Visit

Meet with teammates immediately after visit to divide follow-up jobs:

• File online Report Back Form within two days. Make sure report includes request for any additional info the legislator has requested.

• Send summary/thank you letter to the legislator highlighting commitments made.

• Check ILGA.gov to see if legislator honored co-sponsor commitment. If they haven’t, contact their staff to remind of the commitment and find out if their plans have changed.
Stay With It

Relationships take time.

Payoff is by third year.
Our Commitment to You

The Sierra Club is committed to giving you enough ongoing support to make this a rewarding experience for you.
How to Navigate the Website!
How to Find the Lobby Team Resource Center:

Read how COVID-19 is impacting our activities.
Lobby Team Resources Center

Lobby Team Documents:
- **2021 Spring Model Agenda** (once in the document, go to File > Make a copy in order to edit your own agenda)
- **2021 Spring Lobby Meeting Scheduler Form**
- **2021 Spring Lobby Meeting Report Back Form**

Fact Sheets:
- PFAs Bills Fact Sheet
- PFAS Incineration Ban Fact Sheet
- Clean Energy Jobs Act Fact Sheet
- Nutrient Pollution Fact Sheet
- Environmental Justice Fact Sheet

Other Resources:
- How a bill becomes a law in Illinois
- **2021 Spring Lobby Team Training Presentation**

Priority Legislation Page

Sierra Club Store

Sign up to receive the Prairie State Protector E-News
- first name
- last name
- email
- zip

**Join** **Donate**
Spring 2022 Virtual Meeting Scheduler

Please let us know when you have scheduled a meeting with your state legislator

(Fill out after you have already scheduled your appointment with your legislator)

You will be able to go back in and edit your submission if you schedule your State Senator and State Representative meetings at different times.

If you have any questions, email Emilee (Legislative Apprentice for Sierra Club) at emilee.chaclas@sierraclub.org

Your Name

Full Name

Short answer text
Reminders:

1. Fill out within two days of attending your in-district meeting with your legislator
2. Fill out separate forms for your state representative and state senator (two total)
This presentation will be added to the “Other Resources” section for your convenience.
How to Find Bill Information and Fact Sheets:
Priority Legislation

This is the Sierra Club priority legislation page which details our priority bills for 2021! We have recently switched over to new bill tracking software so this page’s appearance may be different than you’ve experienced before. Priorities are separated into different rows that include fact sheets, the Illinois General Assembly link for that bill, a short description, and more. The spreadsheets each have grey scroll bars along the vertical and horizontal axes, which you can use to see all the information.

Environmental Justice Priority Issue:

One of our priorities is not officially a bill, therefore it is not included in the bill tracker below. To see the fact sheet for this priority, click here.

Having trouble seeing the entire spreadsheet? Click here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>Official Description</th>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>H.B.3190: Safety-Tech</td>
<td>IL House Rules Committee; IL Senate ...</td>
<td>H.B. 3100</td>
<td>H.B. 3100: Safety-Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S.B.0551: FAS Reduction</td>
<td>IL House Rules Committee; IL Senate ...</td>
<td>S.B.0551</td>
<td>S.B.0551: FAS Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>S.B.2474: Finance-Conservation Funds</td>
<td>IL Senate Assignments Committee; IL Senate ...</td>
<td>S.B.2474</td>
<td>S.B.2474: Finance-Conservation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>S.B.1718: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
<td>IL Senate Assignments Committee; IL Senate ...</td>
<td>S.B.1718</td>
<td>S.B.1718: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of Past Legislative Priorities

2021 Illinois Spring Priority Legislation

These are the priority bills our Conservation Committee picked for the 2021 Statewide Lobby Team. Please let your lobby team managers know if you have any trouble navigating through the pieces of priority legislation. This spreadsheet automatically updates, so any information on which committee a bill is currently in will be up to date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>H.B.3190: Safety-Tech</td>
<td>IL House Rules Committee; IL Senate</td>
<td>Amends the Environmental Protection Act</td>
<td>H.B.3190</td>
<td>H.B.3190: Safety-Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S.B.0561: PFAS Reduction</td>
<td>IL House Rules Committee; IL Senate</td>
<td>Creates the PFAS Reduction Act: Provide…</td>
<td>S.B.0561</td>
<td>S.B.0561: PFAS Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>S.B.2474: Finance-Conservation Funds</td>
<td>IL Senate Assignments Committee; IL Senate</td>
<td>Creates the Illinois Partners for Nutrient Lo…</td>
<td>S.B.2474</td>
<td>S.B.2474: Finance-Conservation Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>S.B.1718: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
<td>IL Senate Assignments Committee; IL Senate</td>
<td>Creates the Clean Jobs, Workforce and …</td>
<td>S.B.1718</td>
<td>S.B.1718: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>H.B.0804: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
<td>IL House Rules Committee</td>
<td>Creates the Clean Jobs, Workforce and …</td>
<td>H.B.0804</td>
<td>H.B.0804: Clean Energy Jobs Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Bill Process

Bills may originate in either House or Senate, but must be passed by both chambers.

Unlike federal bills, state bills maintain the number assigned in chamber of origin (HB 422 is called HB 422 when it goes to the Senate).

Sometimes identical bills are started in each house in case one dies.

A session lasts two years: 102nd = 2021-2022:

- Spring session lobbying runs from February through March
- Fall session is the veto session
- Bills are assigned to a substantive Committee and oftentimes if leadership doesn’t like a bill it stays in Rules (House) or Assignments (Senate)
- Bill progress can be followed on ILGA.gov
Shell Bills - Legislative Vehicle

Bill in title only

Used to introduce bills late in session

Text of bill amended later
How a Bill Becomes Law

1st READING  
Bill Introduced

2nd READING  
Bill Read to Full Chamber

3rd READING  
Bill Voted On
Bill Introduced

Assigned to Committee
(Rules/House -- Assignments/Senate)

Assigned to Substantive Committee

Hearing. Amendments may be added.

To 2nd Reading

1st READING
Bill Read 2nd Time
May Add Amendment(s)

2nd READING

Bill Read 3rd Time
Voted On

3rd READING

FAILS

PASSES

Sent to Other Chamber

R.I.P.
2nd CHAMBER

Same as 1st Chamber up to 2nd Reading

- Sent to 3rd Reading Without Amendments
  - Fails
  - Passes
    - Goes to Gov
      - Fails
        - Veto
        - New Law
      - Passes

- Sent to 3rd Reading WITH Amendments
  - Fails
  - Passes
    - Goes back to 1st Chamber for Concurrence
      - Fails
        - Veto
        - New Law
      - Passes
After Bill Passes in Both Chambers

Bill must be sent to the Governor within 30 days.

Governor then has 60 calendar days to sign it, or to return it with his veto.

If the Governor does nothing, the bill will automatically become a law after the 60-day period.

If the Governor vetoes a bill that has been sent to him, the bill can still become law.
Grassroots Lobbying Means Leverage

Lobbying is about the most empowering and effective thing you can do to help the environment.

You have been chosen for this special team because someone saw in you the potential to do a great job.

Have FUN!

We are here to help:
Lobby Team Co-Chair
Chris Pinc, chrispinc@sbcglobal.net

Illinois Sierra Club Conservation Organizer
Emilee Chaclas,
emilee.chaclas@sierraclub.org