

Talking to Congress

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- What's your issue?
- Who should you see?
- What do you want Congress to do about it?
- Conducting the meeting
- Follow-up







What's your issue?

Describe your issue

- · What, who, why, when, where
- Keep it simple, concise, but thorough

Describe to politics of it

- Pros/Cons
- Supporters/Opposition







Who should you see?

- Member
 - Limited time
- **Staff**
 - More time, familiarity with issue, available for follow up
- Local Office v. DC







Who should you see?

Committees

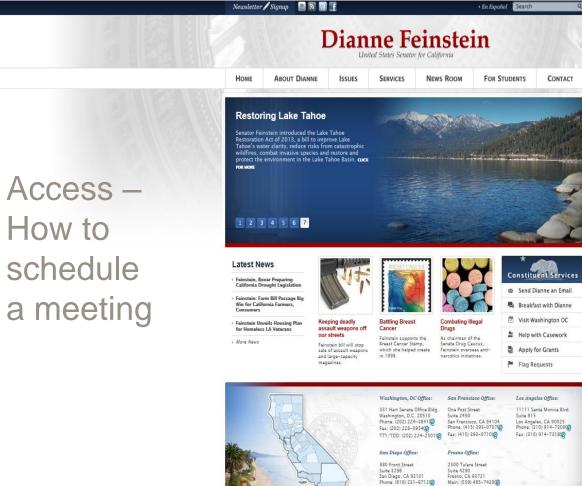
- House
 - Agriculture Lucas (R-OK)
 - Natural Resources Hastings (WA)
- Senate
 - Environment and Public Works Boxer (CA)
 - Energy and Natural Resources Wyden (OR)

Talking to Congress









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- Legislate
- Mediate
- **A** Influence









Legislate

- Introduce a bill
- Cosponsor a bill
- Support/Oppose bills









Mediate

- Federal agency
 - Rule making
 - Permits
 - Grants









Influence

- Agencies
- Other members
- Initiate studies CRS









Conducting the Meeting

Know your issue

- Explain how the issue effects you and why it should be important to the Congressman/woman
- keep comments brief, pertinent and factual
- Provide documents with background
- Be constructive
- Be reasonable don't ask the impossible









A Word about Documents and Background

- Clear and Concise
- Factual
- Easy to Read
- Supplement







Follow-up

- Don't forget to say "thanks!"
- Send letter or e-mail
 - Summarize key points
 - Memorialize commitments
 - Schedule next meeting