

# Talking to Congress

Jim Lecky  
Senior Consultant





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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# Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator for California

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## Restoring Lake Tahoe

Senator Feinstein introduced the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2013, a bill to improve Lake Tahoe's water clarity, reduce risks from catastrophic wildfires, combat invasive species and restore and protect the environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. [CLICK FOR MORE](#)

## Latest News

[Feinstein, Boxer Preparing California Drought Legislation](#)

[Feinstein: Farm Bill Passage Big Win for California Farmers, Consumers](#)

[Feinstein Unveils Housing Plan for Homeless LA Veterans](#)

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### Keeping deadly assault weapons off our streets

Feinstein bill will stop sale of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.



### Battling Breast Cancer

Feinstein supports the Breast Cancer Stamp, which she helped create in 1998.



### Combating Illegal Drugs

As chairman of the Senate Drug Caucus, Feinstein oversees anti-narcotics initiatives.

## Constituent Services

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**Washington, DC Office:**  
221 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2841  
Fax: (202) 228-3954  
TTY/TDD: (202) 224-2501

**San Francisco Office:**  
One Post Street  
Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: (415) 893-0707  
Fax: (415) 898-0710

**Los Angeles Office:**  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Phone: (310) 914-7800  
Fax: (310) 914-7218

**San Diego Office:**  
880 Front Street  
Suite 3296  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (619) 231-9712  
Fax: (619) 231-1108

**Fresno Office:**  
2500 Tulare Street  
Suite 4290  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Main: (559) 485-7480  
Fax: (559) 485-9689



# What do you want Congress to do about it?



**Legislate**



**Mediate**



**Influence**



# What do you want Congress to do about it?



## Legislate

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



# What do you want Congress to do about it?



## Mediate

- Federal agency
  - Rule making
  - Permits
  - Grants



# What do you want Congress to do about it?



## 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