



Writing to your legislators

Letters can be a useful tool in communicating with decision makers. Political staffers have said as few as 10 letters on a particular issue can be enough to get a legislator's attention.

All letters are helpful, but personal letters are more powerful and show a greater level of interest in the issue than form letters.

You may choose to handwrite, e-mail or fax your letter. Check with your legislator to see how he or she prefers to be contacted.

Addressing your letters

To a U.S. Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
__Rm.#__ (name of) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (insert last name)

To a U.S. Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
__Rm.#__(name of) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (insert last name)

See our sample letter for an example to help you write your own letter.

Who represents you?

Once you have decided to contact your legislators about an issue, you will need to find out who represents you.

In Wisconsin:

www.legis.state.wi.us
Find your state and federal representatives by entering your address.

Nationwide:

www.vote-smart.org
Enter your nine-digit ZIP code to find your state and local representatives.

To find your U.S. representatives and senators:

www.house.gov or www.senate.gov
These Web sites link you to each legislator's Web site, where you can learn more.