

Tips for Communicating with Your Legislator

An effective way to communicate your concerns with your legislator is by writing a letter. Phone calls are the quickest method of communication, but unless your legislator is available to speak with you, your concerns will be relayed to him or her through a staff member. In this way, neither your message nor your personal touch reaches your legislator directly.

Writing a letter is simple and is, in fact, the most popular method of reaching a member of Congress. When drafting a letter, please bear in mind these few basic suggestions:

- **Be Direct:** State the purpose of writing your legislator in the first paragraph of the letter.
- **Be Accurate:** If your letter concerns a specific piece of legislation, identify it as such, e.g., House bill: H.R. (number), Senate bill: S. (number). The Library of Congress provides a website that will assist you in researching a House or Senate bill number. Please visit the Library of Congress at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. The cap and trade bill is **H.R. 2454**.
- **Be Concise:** Keep the letter to one page, if possible.
- **Be Efficient:** Faxing your letter, as opposed to mailing it, is recommended. Mail can take up to four to six weeks to reach your legislator's desk.
- **Addressing your Letters:**
You can direct postal correspondence to your Senator as follows:

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
United States Senate
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-4843 (phone)
(202) 228-1371 (fax)

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/contact>

The Honorable Mark Pryor
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-2353 (phone)
(202) 228-0908 (fax)

<http://pryor.senate.gov/contact>

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