



Tips for Talking to Legislators

- Do your research! Find out who your representatives are and what their voting record is on issues that you care about. This will help inform your discussions during a meeting.
- Identify yourself as constituent if you are one. Constituents typically have greater weight in the mind of legislators than non-constituents.
 - Give them details about what sets you apart or makes you interesting to them: being a high school student, begin from a particular area, having a certain life experience, etc.
- Always be respectful and keep your focus on providing information or narrative to the legislator. Your role is to help them do the right thing.
- Offer to find or provide more information if the legislator needs it.
- Never tell a legislator what to do or how to vote.
- Never threaten a legislator.
- Always be aware that legislators are short on time. Be concise and ask how much time you have at the beginning of your meeting.
- Consider making up a business card with your name and contact information on it, to leave with the legislator and/or their staff.
- Always thank the legislator for their time.

Tips for Lobbying on the Sulfide Mining Issue

- Pick three reasons for your concern about sulfide mining and build your talking points around them. Start with the most important and work from there.
- Identify yourself as a constituent and explain why this issue is important to you. Sulfide mining may not be a key issue for your representative simply based on geography. Explain to them why it matters to you, living in the metro area.
 - Financial assurance/tax-payer liability
 - Environmental concerns for the state
- Consider sharing your concerns with the governor's office and your federal representatives as well.

Questions?

We're here to help! Give us a call at 612-332-9630 or email info@friends-bwca.org