



LOBBY VISITS: Materials & Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in ending mountaintop removal by meeting with your members of Congress, one of the most effective means of influencing their opinion.

**The goal is to ask your members of Congress to cosponsor
*H.R. 1310, the Clean Water Protection Act in the House or
S.B. 696, the Appalachia Restoration Act in the Senate.***

Included are materials to present to your member of Congress

- Full Color Lobby Piece
- Current Co-sponsor List for Clean Water Protection Act (as of Date on List)
- Bill Summary
- New York Times Editorial
- Dear Colleague Letter

Seven Tips for a Successful Lobby Visit:

1. **Be punctual, positive, polite and prepared. You are representing the issue.**
2. Focus the meeting from the beginning. Introduce yourself, any organization(s) which you represent or are a member of (if any), and the issues you would like to discuss- **mountaintop removal and the Clean Water Protection Act or the Appalachia Restoration Act.**
3. Make the “ask”—Actually **ask** the representative to cosponsor—and wait for a response.
4. If the member of Congress says no or is unsure about cosponsoring, ask what he/she would need in order to consider doing so.
5. If the member of Congress requests information that you do not have, do not make it up! We can help. Offer to get back in touch with him/her about it. (See Tip # 7!)
6. Thank the member of Congress for his/her time. (See Tip #1!)
7. **Follow-up is crucial.** The most important point of a lobby visit is to establish a relationship that continues past the first visit.

If you have any questions, please call Appalachian Voices, a partner organization of iLoveMountains.org at 828.262.1500 or toll free at 877.277.8642.