



AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO CONTACTING YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

Garden Club of Virginia Conservation and Beautification Committee's Virtual Advocacy Tips

Before Getting Started

1. **Know GCV Legislative Positions.** Familiarize yourself with the current *Garden Club of Virginia Legislative Statement*. Background reading: Virginia Conservation Network's *Our Common Agenda*: <http://www.vcnva.org/our-common-agenda/>. Virginia General Assembly bill tracking may be found at <https://lis.virginia.gov>.
2. **Know the names, background, and contact information for your state Senator and Representative.** You may look this up at: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>.

Contact Your State Legislator

3. **If requesting an appointment** to advocate for our issues (telephone conversation or Zoom/FaceTime call for example), [See sample email for this purpose](#). Keep in mind, the Senator's or Representative's Legislative Aides are extremely helpful and knowledgeable and will be providing guidance to the Legislator.
4. **Introduce yourself and the GCV** (the size and impact of our organization to the Commonwealth of Virginia). Be sure to say if you are their constituent.
5. **Focus your message** (a few sentences for social media or a few short paragraphs for a telephone or Zoom conversation).
6. **Have a personal connection or story** relating to the issue to share.
7. **If time permits, ask the Legislators what Conservation issue is of most concern to them** and how we might be of help.
8. **Thank them** for their time and work on behalf of the environment. A follow-up note is always appreciated.