

Contact Your Representatives:

Staying in touch with your representatives is a cornerstone of active citizenship. Here are different ways to contact your representatives, some options are:

- writing a letter/postcard.
- calling your representatives.
- attending a local public meeting.
- responding to a survey, etc.

Find Your Legislators:

Residents of Minnesota

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Residents of Wisconsin

<https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?single=y>

U.S. Congressional Legislators

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Current Bills of Interest:

Bill search: (HF = House of Representatives, SF = Senate) <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis>

- **HF 1787** University of Minnesota Renewable Fuels Transition Funding Request
- **HF 1405 & SF 1456** Clean Energy First Act
- **HF 2075** Fossil Fuel Divestment from State Pension Retirement Plans
- **HF 1751** Pipeline Construction Authorized
- **HR 763** Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

Crafting your message:



1. **State who you are**
 - a. Show you are a constituent: provide full name & address
2. **State your issue and cite the legislation number**
 - a. E.g. "I'm concerned about ____X____ and the impact of bill ____X____"
3. **Support your position**
 - a. Give more detail about your concern/how it will impact you/your family/your peers
4. **State the action you want your rep to take**
 - a. Ask them to "vote no" or "vote yes" on the particular legislation you reference
5. **Thank them for their time**
6. **Sign your letter/card with your name and address and mail it in!**

Points to Remember:



- One topic/piece of legislation per letter/postcard/phone call/etc.
- **Be respectful:** Effective communication is short, direct, and has supporting information
- Identify yourself correctly, with address if a constituent
- Do not use boilerplate or template text. State your issues in your own words.

How to talk about climate change: A discussion for students

A quick guide on how to have productive climate change related conversations and useful information on how to take action



 **OUR CLIMATE FUTURES**
MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN DULUTH MARCH 19-20



Quick Facts on Climate Change:

- Average global temperature has increased 1.9° F since 1880.
- As of 2017, CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere is 405.0 parts per million, which is the highest level in the past 800,000 years.
- Global sea level has risen about 8 inches in the last century, and the rate of sea level rise in the last 20 years is nearly double the rate of the last century.
- Solar energy output has stayed the same or only slightly increased since 1750
 - If the sun was causing climate change, all layers of the atmosphere would be warming, but instead only the lower layers of the atmosphere are warming.
- Volcanic CO₂ emissions are less than 2% of anthropogenic CO₂.



Productive Conversation Tips:

- Listen first, think second, talk last
- Use open and friendly language
- Find common ground that you can agree on
- Appreciate the perspective and motivation of others
- Know your facts - avoid unsupported or hyperbolic statements

Learn More:

- Counter arguments to climate skeptics
 - <https://grist.org/series/skeptics/>
- Climate change facts
 - <https://climate.nasa.gov/>
 - <https://www.climate.gov/>
- Ways to take action
 - <https://www.earthday.org/campaigns/climate-change/>



Ways to Take Action:

- Make your voice heard
 - Write letters to your legislators and representatives
 - Vote for candidates that support actions to fight climate change
 - Give feedback to companies on their environmental practices
- Practice what you preach
 - Use public transportation, carpool, bike, and walk
 - Eat less meat
 - Switch to more energy efficient products
 - Buy less “stuff”
- Engage your friends and family in productive conversations about climate change!