



*Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*

## Contact an Elected Official

Writing an email or making a phone call is an effective and persuasive way of communicating with your elected officials. When elected officials receive numerous emails or phone calls on a specific issue, it does influence their vote. You can reach out to one of your representatives to share your view on a current marine policy issue that you find important, or ask them to support or oppose a specific piece of legislation.

[LEARN HOW TO CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTED LEADERS →](#)

### Writing an email

A few tips for putting together your email:

- **Keep it brief and try to stick to one issue.**
- **State your name, where you live, and why you're writing in the first paragraph.** Tell your legislator that you live in their district and identify the issue you're writing about. If your letter is about a specific piece of legislation, it can be helpful to identify it by its bill number.
- **Make 2-3 strong factual points to support your position.** The [Seattle Aquarium Blog](#) and [Take Action web page](#) have information on current ocean policy topics and can be a resource for crafting your message.
- **State why this issue matters to you.** Personalize your message by sharing why this issue or piece of legislation matters to you and your community. If you have one, you can share a personal story about how this issue has affected you.
- **State clearly what you are asking for**, e.g. "Please support H.R. 4458". You may also want to include this information in the subject line of your email.

### Making a phone call

In addition to writing to your elected representatives, you can also use this framework to call them and let them know where you stand on the issues you care about. Although you will likely not speak directly to your legislator, a member of their staff will pass along your message. Elected officials keep track of how many people call about each issue, so if one issue is getting a lot of calls it can help make that issue a priority.

If you live in Washington state, you can call the **toll-free legislative hotline** at **(800) 562-6000** (TTY for hearing impaired [800] 833-6388) between 8am and 7pm, Monday through Friday, to leave a message for all three of your state legislators at once.