

## Actions for your chapter gathering

1. Plan to attend and ask questions at candidate forums/town halls
2. Use one of our timely topics to write climate-focused LTEs
3. Mobilization bonus action: Write Congress about permitting reform
4. Election engagement bonus action: Help get environmentally minded people to vote
5. Communications skills exercise: Practice describing CCL's permitting reform priorities

---

## Monthly International Call

Ben Pendergrass and Jennifer Tyler, CCL Government Affairs

Saturday, July 13, 2024

10 a.m. PT / 1 p.m. ET

Ben Pendergrass and Jennifer Tyler will share the impact of our 442 lobby meetings held on June 11 and your June phone calls about the PROVE IT Act. They will also help us check in on CCL's major policy areas now that we are halfway through the year and heading into the height of election season. Ben Pendergrass is CCL's Vice President of Government Affairs and Jenn Tyler is CCL's Senior Director of Government Affairs.




### Three Ways to Join

- **To connect by video conference:** go to [cclusa.org/meeting](https://cclusa.org/meeting) (this links to meeting ID# 88228136772)
  - To improve audio/video quality, close all applications and other browser windows
  - To turn on closed captions and adjust their size, see this [Zoom help page](#)
  - Spanish interpretation is also available
- **To connect by phone:** with unlimited calling 646-558-8656; toll-free 877-369-0926. Enter 882-2813-6772
- **To watch a livestream:** go to: [cclusa.org/livestream](https://cclusa.org/livestream)

If your Action Sheet is printed and you'd like to be able to click the links, you can download this Action Sheet at [cclusa.org/actionsheet](https://cclusa.org/actionsheet).

# Plan to attend and ask questions at candidate forums/town halls

## LOBBYING CONGRESS / GRASSTOPS ENGAGEMENT ACTION

 **Summary:** We want all candidates to move climate to the top of their policy agenda so (1) plan for lots of folks to attend campaign events this summer, (2) prepare for the events by crafting effective questions to ask, and (3) get to know and educate candidates on CCL, whether they are doing campaign events or not. *Read on for the details.* ↓



### Identify upcoming candidate events and plan to attend

Election season is in full swing all summer. Members of Congress (MOCs) and candidates vying for seats will likely be campaigning in your district/state in July and August. Candidate forums and town halls provide an excellent opportunity for you to connect with all candidates on the issue of climate change. Add these events to your summer advocacy plan by:

- Designating someone to find candidates' upcoming events, sign up for notifications, and alert others
- Inviting your whole chapter roster to participate to ensure lots of audience questions on climate
- Coordinating with nearby CCL chapters so that there is CCLer attendance at all campaign events

For a more detailed planning guide, see CCL Community's [Worksheet for Leveraging Town Halls](#).

### Develop effective climate questions to ask that will elicit a positive response

Designate volunteers to research each candidate's position on climate. Start on their campaign website, and for MOCs running for reelection, ask your liaison.

Study CCL's [Town Hall Example Question Guide](#) to craft effective questions that:

- Include an appreciation and a bit of your personal story
- Are phrased in the language of the candidate's party
- Are open-ended, localized, and educate the audience
- Will encourage candidates to commit to enacting climate change solutions if they are elected
- Will evoke a positive response

Organize a volunteer role-play to test your questions.

### Adhere to CCL's campaign season guidance and log your activities

Recall CCL's nonpartisan values; we do not support or organize for individual candidates or political parties.

[Here's some info](#) on how to log candidate events and your meetings with candidates.

### Join this upcoming training


Attend [Strategies For Attending Candidate Events](#) live training on July 11, or [watch the recording](#) afterward.

### Additional Resources

- CCL Community's [Strategies for Attending Candidate Events](#) training
- CCL Community's [Campaign Season Activities](#) training

# Use one of our timely topics to write climate-focused LTEs

## MEDIA RELATIONS ACTION

 **Summary:** Plan to submit a pile of climate-focused letters to the editor (LTEs) about (1) the summer weather extremes you've experienced or (2) the need for all candidates running for office to step up on climate. *Read on for the details.* ↓



**During your chapter gathering, invite folks to work in pairs, choose a topic and jot down LTE outlines:**

### Letter topic: Summer weather extremes

- Recent summer weather extremes, such as very high temperatures, have affected people across the country in recent weeks. Take this chance to write a letter including points such as: How recent summer weather extremes in your area have affected you, the people you care about, your cost-of-living, or the cost of doing business
- Why these extremes are happening: Burning fossil fuels has contributed to overheating, making summer a dangerous season for large swaths of the country
- Meteorologists predict that this summer will see hotter-than-average temperatures in almost every state
- Climate change makes “unnatural disasters” more likely, such as heat waves, drought, wildfires, and turbocharged storms
- NOAA predicts an [above-normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season](#)

To end your letter, pivot and urge your elected officials to do more to reduce heat-trapping pollution now to mitigate climate change for future generations.

### Letter topic: Asking candidates for their climate plans

The other thing on people's minds right now is the upcoming election. Our letters to the editor (LTEs) are an effective form of advocacy to communicate to members of Congress — and candidates running for office — that climate is a priority issue for constituents. You could write that all candidates running for office should take this issue seriously and should have a viable plan to address heat-trapping pollution. Our lawmakers have a responsibility to step up to solve the problem.

### **Meet with your partner at the end of your chapter meeting to finish your letter**

As you start turning your outline into a letter, you might like to check out CCL's [Election Season Media kit](#) for guidance on tone. If you are a first-time letter writer, you can refer to CCL Community's [How to Write Effective Letters to the Editor](#) training for help getting started.

### **Submit your LTE and log it**

You can submit your LTE by following the instructions in your local online or traditional newspaper or use CCL's online tool [cclusa.org/lte](https://cclusa.org/lte) to submit your letter to a few local media organizations. And be sure to log your media submissions and publishing successes in the [Action Tracker](#).

### **Additional Resource**

CCL Community's [LTE Topics](https://cclusa.org/lte-topics) resource ([cclusa.org/lte-topics](https://cclusa.org/lte-topics))

# Write Congress about permitting reform

MOBILIZATION BONUS ACTION | **Clean Energy Permitting Reform** ▾

Ask your chapter's Mobilization Manager to show everyone how they can write to Congress to advocate for bipartisan clean energy permitting reform in less than 3 minutes! If your chapter doesn't have a Mobilization Manager, ask someone who has used the tool to give a demonstration.



Next, take a few minutes for everyone to go to [cclusa.org/take-action](https://cclusa.org/take-action) (will go live on Tuesday, July 9) on their phone, tablet or laptop and write Congress. Personalized messages have the greatest impact.

## Share this bonus action with others

Ask friends, family, allies and visitors at your tabling events to go to [cclusa.org/take-action](https://cclusa.org/take-action) to write Congress. Be sure to ask your chapter's Mobilization Manager (or another chapter designee) to contact chapter members who were absent from your meeting but would likely take action.

---

# Help get environmentally minded people to vote

ELECTION ENGAGEMENT BONUS ACTION | **Election Engagement** ▾

The general election is just a few months away, and we want to encourage environmentally minded people to vote.

If your chapter is just starting with election engagement, organize a group of interested volunteers and ask them to join our [Election Engagement Action Team](#) so they get updates on phone banking, Environmental Voter Project (EVP) postcarding, and more.



Then invite your group to join a CCL/EVP phonebank every Wednesday at 7pm ET ([cclusa.org/evp](https://cclusa.org/evp)). All CCLers, their friends and families are invited to call unlikely-to-vote environmentally minded people across the country. By encouraging inconsistent voters to participate in an upcoming election, we can help move them to become regular and reliable voters.

For more details, check out this recording of [Election 2024 - Helping Climate Voters Elect Climate Champions](#).

# Practice describing CCL's permitting reform priorities

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

You may get some questions this month when you ask your friends and family to write Congress about bipartisan clean energy permitting reform (see Mobilization Bonus Action above). Let's practice saying CCL's priorities from our June 11th primary ask one-pager so that you can explain energy permitting effectively.

### **Suggestions for how to practice**

We know that people learn best by saying the words out loud themselves, so for this exercise:

1. Read these instructions to meeting attendees:

Instructions: With a partner, read **CCL's Permitting Reform Priorities** out loud, and then ask your partner to read them. Afterward, discuss the points that you remember. You'll have six minutes.

2. Ask two people to model the exercise, and then invite everyone to practice.

If you use Zoom breakout rooms (see [Zoom's training page on "Breakout Rooms"](#) to learn how):

Put everyone into breakout rooms, two people per room, for six minutes. When everyone returns, ask a few people to share some highlights from the exercise.

If you use Zoom, but don't use breakout rooms: invite a few attendees to follow the instructions in pairs.

### **CCL's Permitting Reform Priorities**

Some progress has been made, but we still need key reforms to our energy permitting process, like:

1. Allowing transmission lines to be permitted and built much faster: We must permit, site, and build interregional transmission and require that regions be able to transfer significant power.
2. Reasonable timelines for judicial review: There are new time limits for NEPA reviews, but litigation still has the potential to delay needed energy projects almost indefinitely. We need a reasonable statute of limitations that allows impacted communities to have a voice and stops bad projects, but does not allow for infinite delays.
3. Ensuring robust and early community engagement: Any permitting reform must still provide a thorough, accessible process for community engagement and input.
4. Technology-specific permitting: There is also a critical need to modernize permitting for specific technologies such as nuclear, hydropower, and geothermal power.

We urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to draft legislation that updates our energy infrastructure permitting process that can pass both the House and Senate and be signed into law.

### **Additional Resources**

- CCL's [Benefits of Clean Energy Permitting Reform](https://cclusa.org/permitting-reform) ([cclusa.org/permitting-reform](https://cclusa.org/permitting-reform))
- CCL Community's [Clean Energy Permitting Reform](https://cclusa.org/permitting-topics) ([cclusa.org/permitting-topics](https://cclusa.org/permitting-topics)) training topics
- CCL Community's [Primary Ask One-pager on Energy Permitting](#) resource