

Eight Ways to Build a Strong Relationship with Your Elected Officials



1. Take the time to **send a letter** to your elected officials, introducing your organization and outlining the economic and social impact of travel in your area.
2. Invite your elected official to participate in a **back-of-house tour, roundtable, or in-district meeting**. Find our “how to” documents [here] and to coordinate with the Congressional schedules, visit www.house.gov or www.senate.gov or send us an email with your questions.
3. Attend your legislator’s **community events**, such as a town hall meeting, to speak about the value of travel to your area. Typically, you can find a schedule of local events on his or her website.
4. Write a personal **letter to the editor or op-ed** and submit it to the newspaper in your area, outlining the impact of travel on local jobs and noting any support your legislators have provided.
5. Attend **Destination Capitol Hill** in Washington, D.C. (March 25-26, 2015). While in Washington, U.S. Travel Association will arrange for you to meet your congressional delegation.
6. Host an event during **National Travel and Tourism Week** (May 2-10, 2015) and invite your elected official to attend as a special guest.
7. Follow up with your elected official and staff and **keep in touch** often! Position yourself as the go-to for travel and tourism inquiries and offer to be a resource.
8. **Engage employees** in your district. Organize employee call-in days or host a letter writing day to encourage employees to connect directly with their elected officials.