

PUGET SOUND DAY ON THE HILL

MAY 1–3, 2017



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DAY ON THE HILL

- ▶ Please see <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs> for details regarding ID requirements for entering different buildings. The Capitol does not require ID but some of the federal agency buildings might. The State of Washington has received an extension until June 6 for implementing the REAL ID requirements so we understand your regular WA driver's license will suffice.
- ▶ Wear comfortable shoes and seriously consider bringing a compact umbrella
- ▶ Water bottles are not allowed in some buildings so you may want to carry a disposable one
- ▶ For our purposes, you do not need a rental car – metro, taxicabs and Uber are the easiest way to get around town
- ▶ If you have and want to distribute them, don't forget your business cards.
- ▶ The potential “government shutdown” officially applies to the Executive Branch (which includes all the federal agencies) and happens when Congress has not adopted a budget by the deadline. Congress keeps working to reach a budget agreement but each member's office determines if it will reduce staff during that period. In the unlikely event there is a shutdown, we will do our best to adapt and make meaningful use of our time.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL INTERACTIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

- ▶ Short and very concise communication is best. Think about a 20- to 30-second “summary statement” that you can use in group meetings so that your own lens or perspective enhances the Key Messages.
- ▶ Long or numerous “leave behinds” are often immediately shelved—our Congressional staff and members simply don't have time to read much more than one-page fact sheets. That's why we have worked so hard to condense the shared messages to one page.
- ▶ The shared practice for this trip is that, with respect to meetings that are organized for Puget Sound Day on the Hill, the group—via the Team Lead—will only distribute the materials created for this purpose. This does not apply to any meetings that you may have set up through other channels.
- ▶ Congressional staff are an incredibly important part of the legislative process. More than one seasoned D.C. professional has confessed to me that they find meetings with staff to have more impact than those with members (but we can keep that to ourselves!).
- ▶ If you do not know the answer to a question, say so and offer to follow up. Ask to whom the information should be provided. Then make certain that you do follow up.
- ▶ Leave lots of time between meetings if you have to travel from one building to another. Some of the distances are deceptively far, and security checks can slow you down.
- ▶ If members of your group are not there on time, get started anyway—we do not want to waste any of the precious time we have with Congressional staff or members.