

How to Write a Letter to Your Senator

Sarah Kurelowech

1. Find your senator

- Go to the following website and follow the directions on the following slides.

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm>



Find Your Senators ▼

Click the Drop Down Arrow

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LEGISLATION & RECORDS

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Former Senators

Qualifications & Terms of Service

Facts & Milestones

States

Information about Current Senators

The following lists from Facts &

Senators



Contact 116th Congress



and salaries.

Current senators' contact information as well as links to related information such as biographical profiles, statistics,

Leadership & Officers



Current Senate leaders and officers as well as links to historical essays, lists, and artwork depicting former

Qualifications & Terms of Service



Information on the requirements to become a senator, a senator's term of service, and the oath of office.

Facts & Milestones



Links to biographical information, Senate service accomplishments, military



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The following lists from Facts &

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senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=PA

Find Your Senators

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UNITED STATES SENATE

Search

SENATORS COMMITTEES LEGISLATION & RECORDS ART & HISTORY REFERENCE

Senator information is found here

Senators of the 116th Congress

Choose a Senator Choose a Class

What is a class?

Former Senators

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Information about Current Senators

The following lists from Facts &

Casey, Robert P., Jr. - (D - PA)	Class I
393 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510	
(202) 224-6324	
Contact: www.casey.senate.gov/contact/	
Toomey, Patrick J. - (R - PA)	Class III
248 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510	
(202) 224-4254	
Contact: www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact	

2. Writing the Letter

- Follow the template shown on the next slide

July 22, 2020

Your Contact Info

Senator's Contact Info

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Senator Casey,

Introduction and Personal Connection

I am very fortunate to have lived in the beautiful state of Pennsylvania my entire life. As a student at Carnegie Mellon University taking a summer research course in light pollution, I have become aware of the negative effects that light has on our planet. I am worried that our state and ultimately our planet are at risk of being greatly altered by light pollution.



Research Facts

Research has found that, in the United States, thirty-five percent of outdoor lighting is wasted due to improper shielding. Per year, \$3.3 billion dollars are wasted and 21 million tons of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. In addition to energy waste, many types of wildlife are being impacted by our improper use of artificial light. Animals have always relied on the consistent pattern of night and day to help guide them in reproduction, sleep, migration, and nourishment. As you know, Pennsylvania has tons of wildlife such as whitetail deer and rainbow trout that are being affected by our actions.



Call for Action

I am asking you to bring these facts to the attention of the public. With more awareness, people will be more conscious of the way in which they use artificial lighting. In addition to this, I urge you to speak with the municipalities of the state about replacing older, less energy-efficient lighting systems with LEDs. It is important that the municipalities follow the recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association when installing a new lighting system. I believe that we have the ability to make our world a better place to live in if we become conscious of the effects of our artificial lights.



Sincerely,

Sarah C. Kurelowech
Applied Physics and Engineering Studies
Carnegie Mellon University
Class of 2021

- IDA has points to bring up to legislators at the following link. Incorporate these into the research facts section.
- <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/policy-makers/>
- Be sure to make a personal connection to the issue. This will provoke an emotional response from the legislator.

