

ECA Legislator Meeting Script 12.2021

What to Cover

Divide roles: 1 person as legislator, 2 or 3 people play the constituents, 1 timekeeper, designated reporter

Keep meeting to 10 minutes.

Debrief and switch roles.

Second 10 minute meeting

- Introduce yourself.
 - “Hello Senator (Representative) Smith. I’m (name) and I live in (town). Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with us today.” Have other members introduce themselves.
- Briefly explain Elders Climate Action and its key mission.
 - “Elders Climate Action is a national organization that takes action for a healthy climate to support our grandchildren and all children. Statewide our chapter has over 1000 members- who vote! Our goal is to support implementation of the Massachusetts Next Generation Roadmap Climate law to reduce emissions to net-zero by 2050.
- Explain the problem - briefly describe how global warming is impacting you or your family...particularly your grandchildren, neighbors, community. Tell a short personal story.

- Tell the legislator that to address the climate issues we would like to see this bill reported favorable out of committee.
- Do you know about the Forest Bill H.912?
- What are your thoughts about co-sponsoring this bill?

H.912 would designate 400,000 acres of lands controlled by the MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as parks and reserves and create new management standards to preserve the forests. It would expand the existing system of parks and reserves where natural processes are allowed to proceed with minimal human management—similar to our National Parks.

If enacted, this bill would represent a significant change to current management that allows a variety of destructive practices, such as selling off the timber for commercial use. By preserving 8.5% of the land base and 14% of forested land in Massachusetts, H.912 along with **H.1002**, An Act Relative to Increased Protection of Wildlife Management, will:

- **fight climate change** by allowing forests to grow back and stay standing to maximize atmospheric carbon removal and optimize long-term carbon storage
- **preserve large, contiguous tracts of forest, water, and wetlands** that sustain full range of native diversity, which only public lands are now capable of providing
- **provide public benefits** such as clean air and water, recreational opportunities, and economic diversification
- **contribute to the mitigation of climate change impacts** for all Massachusetts residents, including environmental justice communities, coastal areas, and watersheds of urban centers.

- Do you have any questions about the bill? (If the legislator asks a question you can't answer, tell them you will get back to them tomorrow with the answer).
- Mention Deep Dialog focused on this bill. We can email a link from a current Deep Dialog focused on the science behind this bill.
- Briefly mention a few of the other ECA priority bills.
- Most importantly, tell them that their support for all the bills is critical to start implementation of the Roadmap law.
- When the breakout room ends please be prepared to report back at the chapter meeting.

Legislator Script:

- What other groups are supporting this bill?
- My friends in the Logging industry think they need access to this wood and they think it's good to manage forests with cutting.
- I see all your points but I'm not ready to co-sponsor this bill.
- I'm for electrification so focus on forests is not that important.