



Sample Scripts for Phone and Email Outreach FY2024 EE Appropriations Campaign

Template for email outreach

For past supporters (check [here](#) - tab on the bottom to switch to Senate list) **Senate** version:

Dear (staff member),

We thank Senator (name) for supporting environmental and climate education, (especially signing the EPA (and/or NOAA) environmental education appropriations letter in the past)! Sen. (name) is a true environmental and climate education champion!

EPA education funding is essential for addressing our environmental challenges. These programs have very modest budgets, but the schools, nature centers, water conservation districts, and other organizations who benefit from the grant program do a lot with a little!

(Our state) has benefited greatly from these programs; here are the fantastic grants received locally in the past ten years. ([This is the link to the directory of state grant lists](#) - add in link only to your state list.)

Please help secure this crucial funding by having Senator (name) sign on to this appropriations letter:

[EPA letter circulated by Sen. Gillibrand](#)

Thank you for supporting environmental and climate education!

(your name)

Member, (state environmental education association)

(your email address)

Telephone Outreach

Often, your outreach will begin with a telephone call to the D.C. offices of your Senators or Representatives. The main objectives of your phone call are to explain your ask and get a name and email address for the appropriate contact to follow up. If you happen to have a relationship with the staff in these offices already, or if there is a contact name

and email listed in our [record of Congressional support](#), you can skip the call, and send an email directly to the staff contact instead.

Sample telephone script for Senate outreach

(Ask if it is possible to speak to the person who handles appropriations issues related to the environment. It may not be; that is fine.)

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. My name is [name] from [city or town]. I am calling [on behalf of [organization and/or state environmental ed association], to urge Senator [Name] to sign on to two Dear Colleague Letters in support of important appropriations for environmental education grants at EPA and NOAA.

The first asks the appropriations committee to provide a boost in funding for the National Environmental Education Act for fiscal year 2024. This letter is being circulated by Senator Gillibrand, who is asking that the program be funded at \$14 million. EPA's environmental education grants are small but critical investments that provide significant returns for our communities and the local environment. Funding for this office has been stagnant for a decade and \$14 million is the original amount authorized in 1990.

[if applicable, provide a description of the funding provided to your organization or within your state through an EPA grant. Find details on awarded grants by state here:

<https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>]

A second letter urges Congress to support funding for the vital NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training and Environmental Literacy grant programs. Please sign on to this letter in support of these important programs—it is being circulated by Senator Baldwin's office.

Environmental education is critical for [state]. It provides non-regulatory solutions to complex problems, engages students in real-world learning, and supports a healthy quality of life.

I will follow up with you by email with copies of the letters and contact information. Should I send these materials to you or is there another person I should contact?

Thank you for your time.

Sample script for House outreach

(Ask if it is possible to speak to the person who handles appropriations issues related to the environment. It may not be; that is fine)

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. My name is [name] from [city or town]. I am calling [on behalf of x organization, if appropriate] to urge Representative XXXXX to sign on to two Dear Colleague Letters in support of important appropriations for environmental education grants at EPA and NOAA.

The first asks the appropriations committee to provide a boost in funding for the National Environmental Education Act for fiscal year 2024. This letter is being circulated by Representatives Neguse and Langevin, who are asking for \$14 million for the program. EPA's environmental education grants are small but critical investments that yield significant

returns for our communities and the local environment. Funding for this office has been stagnant for a decade and \$14 million is the original amount authorized in 1990.

[if applicable, provide a description of the funding provided to your organization or within the Congressional district through an EPA grant. Find details on awarded grants by state here: <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>]

A second letter urges Congress to appropriate \$12 million for the vital NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training program, and \$8 million for the Environmental Literacy Program. This represents a modest increase in funding over previous years. It also includes a request for funding to support climate change education. Please sign on to this letter in support of these important programs—it is being circulated by Rep. Kathy Castor.

Environmental education is critical for [state and district]. It provides non-regulatory solutions to complex problems, engages students and the general public in real-world learning, and supports a healthy quality of life.

I will follow up with you by email with copies of the letters and contact information. Should I send these materials to you or is there another person I should contact?

Thank you for your time.
