

## **How to contact your government representative**

In the age of email, most government offices are now flooded with email to the point that they are very rarely read, if ever. The most effective means of communication is an old-fashioned letter from a constituent. If you want your voice to be heard, a letter is your best option. If that is not possible, an email would be a second-best choice.

### **What to say:**

Your letter should be short and to the point. Long, drawn-out correspondence doesn't have the impact of a short, to-the-point effort. Keep it on one page.

Open with a sentence or two about your personal involvement in this issue:

- . time spent in the out-of-doors,
- . living where you do because of your love of nature
- . your involvement with animals, wild or domestic, that spurred your interest
- . vacationing and/or recreating in the area
- . work with children

Then state an action you would like to see taken by the representative, which might include some of the following:

- . ending the hunting of wolves
- . decisions based on biological facts rather than emotional anti-wolf hysteria
- . biological balance restored by letting wolves reclaim their rightful place in the ecosystem

Information on any of these topics is found elsewhere on this web site.

Close with a final sentence thanking the official for giving consideration to your letter. Ask that the person you are contacting get back to you and report on what action is being taken. (These people are representing YOU as a taxpayer, and you should know how well they are doing that job.)

It's important to be polite and respectful. Be sure to include your address so the person you are contacting can respond and see where you are located in his/her district.