

SAMPLE LETTER TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS

This is a draft letter to your members in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate to be signed by your mayor/policy board chair/all members of the policy board. Let them know that your community has a public power system (and possibly community broadband services) that serves its citizens well and that they can help by supporting public power goals. You can also adapt this letter for your state officials or other local policymakers. Your joint action agency or state association may also be coordinating a letter to your elected officials.

You can fax or email correspondence to your Member of Congress. Regular mail takes a long time to get to a congressional office. You may also want to deliver the letter to your congressional representative's district office.

Dear Rep. (*Name*)/Senator (*Name*):

On the occasion of Public Power Week (#PublicPowerWeek), Oct. 1-7, I'm writing to tell you about (*name of community's*) community-owned electricity services and ask for your continued support.

Public Power Week is an annual national celebration that recognizes the economic, social and environmental contributions of our hometown electric utility, one of 68 members of the Missouri Public Utility Alliance and more than 2,000 across the nation that collectively serve 49 million Americans. Public Power Week also honors the democratic tradition of community decision-making and participation that led to the founding of (*utility name*) in (*date*).

As a not-for-profit enterprise owned and operated by the community, (*utility name*) is proud of the service we provide to our customers in (*community name*). We have a track record of low rates, reliability, and public service that sustain our community charter.

We look to you to protect the interests of public power and ensure that the energy (*and broadband*) decisions you make in Washington, D.C., will enable us to continue to have local control over meeting our energy needs.

Along with our national association in Washington, D.C. — the American Public Power Association — we advocate for public policy that will increase our energy independence and security, care for the environment, and make energy use more efficient:

- We seek preservation of tax-exempt financing for public power utilities and advocate for access to tax-exempt bonds.
- We support comprehensive legislation to address climate change, but look to government to create environmental laws and regulations that ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply without negative impact on consumers and the economy.

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- We seek balanced legislation on grid security that encourages industry-government information sharing and allows for local decision-making and flexibility.
- We support policy that ensure effective competition in wholesale electricity markets for the benefit of consumers, businesses, and the economy.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the impact various federal initiatives may have on the cost and reliability of electricity (*and broadband*) services.

Please join us in celebrating Public Power Week (*list activities and issue invitation if appropriate to take part in any public ceremonies, also invite social media connections*).

We would also be honored to host you or your staff for a tour of our facilities at any time so that you can see for yourself how public power serves our community.

Thank you for your support of our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor/policy board chair/entire policy board)