



SAMPLE LETTER TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS

This is a draft letter to send to your elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate that would be signed by your mayor/policy board chair/all members of the policy board. Please let them know that your community has a public power utility 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 should email correspondence to your member of Congress and senators. (Visit [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) to find your member and senators.) Postal mail takes a long time to get to a congressional office. You may also want to deliver the letter to the district offices of your congressional representative and senators.

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

On the occasion of Public Power Week (#PublicPowerWeek), Oct. 4-10, I am 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 role and contributions of our hometown electric utility, one of approximately 2,000 across the nation that collectively serve 55 million Americans across 49 states and five U.S. territories. Public Power Week also honors the tradition of community decision-making and participation that led to the founding of *(utility name)* in *(date)*.

As a not-for-profit utility 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 affordable rates, reliability, and public service that sustain our community charter.

We ask you to protect the interests of public power and ensure that the energy-related policy decisions you make in Washington, D.C., will enable us to continue to have local control over meeting our energy needs.

Along with the American Public Power Association, our national trade association in Washington, D.C., we support federal policies that will:

- Maintain affordability for the customers we serve by retaining the flexibility to develop rates, terms, and conditions that protect existing customers from costs associated with accommodating



new large loads, bond modernization to reduce investment costs, and increased funding to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

- Protect electric reliability amid unprecedented demand growth at a time when traditional generation is retiring prematurely, and new, reliable generation cannot be built quickly enough.
- Enact federal permitting reform to address the lengthy and unpredictable permitting processes that make it more difficult and costly for utilities to invest in needed infrastructure.
- Mitigate the growing threat from wildfires through legislation to address effective vegetation management on federal lands, liability issues, and procuring adequate insurance.
- Support and strengthen the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which plays a key role in disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

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 services.

Please join us in celebrating Public Power Week *(list activities and issue invitations 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 *(utility name)* serves our community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

(Mayor/policy board chair/entire policy board)