# Communicating Effectively with your Legislators

First you need to know their contact information. [NoMoCWD.org/contact](http://nomocwd.org/contact) will help.

The big 4 rules:

## Be Clear

* + (make sure they understand what you are asking them to actually do)

## Be Brief

* + (no marathon letters, emails or phone calls)

## Keep it polite

* + (even if they don't)

## Stay on-point

* + (if you have other issues to discuss with them, make it a separate contact)

The best results come if they respect you after the communication, even if they disagree with your position.

In general, here is how contacts rank by effectiveness:

1. Personal Appointment (most can meet with you in the district while they are not in session)
2. Office visit
3. Phone call
4. Personal letter
5. Personal email
6. Template letter
7. Template email

No matter which form of contact you use, don't forget the big 4 rules

Do not worry if you are not the greatest speaker or writer. Legislators understand that they work for you and are responsible to hear the opinions of constituents. If you are less comfortable with one form of communication, by all means choose another.

Many legislators have been duped or hoodwinked into taking a bad position on this topic. Others may have been strongarmed by their House or Senate or party leadership.

In other words, not all who voted with the industry are "true believers" in the confined cervid business cause. Your effective communication may help ensure they are careful to respect your values in the future.

CWD is an incredibly complex topic and many legislators do not really understand it, though most think they do. It is good if you are as informed as possible but steer clear of getting into details about the disease you are not certain of. Stick to bullet points and keep focus on the action you are looking for. This is not the time to force a CWD seminar on them.