



The Botany Bill

H.R. 1572: Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act

A Bill to Promote Botanical Research & Sciences Capacity

Help Advance the Botany Bill!!

Introduced by Rep. Quigley (D-IL) and co-sponsor Rep. Rooney (R-FL) on March 6th, 2019.

The most valuable thing you can do is ask your member of the U.S. House of Representative to cosponsor the Bill!

The Importance of Cosponsors

Once a bill is introduced in the U.S. House of Representative by its lead sponsor & co-sponsor, it is assigned a bill number and referred to the appropriate committees that maintain jurisdiction over the legislation.

To demonstrate support for the legislation, it is important that other Members of Congress sign their name in support of the bill – this is known as becoming a “cosponsor” of the bill. It is important to secure both Democrats and Republicans as cosponsors, which demonstrates bipartisan support for the legislation.

How to be effective

The single most impactful thing you can do is ***speak directly*** with your Member of Congress. ***Calling and/or emailing your Rep’s office are also important*** but not nearly as effective as talking with them. Consider all three!!

Schedule a meeting with your Member in their district office or attending one of their Town Hall events and speaking to them. Another approach is to invite them to visit your office or facility in the district to receive a tour, meet the employees and learn about what you do.

Persistent contact is key, whether attending a town hall meeting, emailing, or speaking with a legislative aid.

Thanking folks for their time is a great way to follow up and is important for establishing and maintaining long-term relationships!

It is critical that you are persistent in your advocacy. If you don’t hear back from the staff, then you should email again and consider following-up with a fax, as archaic as it may sound. Call to confirm receipt of the email/vax and inquire as to when you should expect a response.

Help us track our collective advocacy! If you’ve met with your representative, or have engaged them in a meaningful way via email or the phone, we want to know!

Please send a brief summary of your efforts to botanybill116@gmail.com

Find your representative!

You can find the name and contact info (including website) of your Representative at

www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

All Members of Congress have an office in Washington, D.C. staffed by legislative aides who primarily handle policy issues. They also have one or more “district” offices staffed by aides who typically focus on helping constituents with federal issues and conducting community outreach. Members of Congress split time between these locations.

Contacting the District Office

You can find contact info and scheduled events on your representative's website.

On weekends and during weeks when Congress is not in session, Members are typically in their Congressional Districts. Ordinarily, they will have meeting hours for constituents to visit with them in their district offices. They also often host "Town Hall" meetings, neighborhood office hours, or similar events where they give remarks and take questions from their constituents. Staff members are usually on hand to help out with requests.

To set up an in-person meeting or site visit, call the district office and ask where you should direct the request. Commonly, you will be asked to send a brief email your request to the office scheduler; follow-up to confirm receipt and inquire as to when you should expect a response. A brief email is ordinarily all that is needed. When you have your scheduled meeting, bring along a 1-pager of talking points, including why the Botany Bill is important to you, their constituent. You can leave this behind with the Member or staff person.

Contacting the Washington, D.C. Office

If you plan to be in Washington, D.C., consider reaching out to your Member's office (phone number will be on their website) to determine if you can schedule time to discuss the Botany Bill, your support of it and to ask for them to become a cosponsor.

If you cannot travel to Washington, D.C., the next best thing is to communicate with their office via e-mail and telephone. You can call the Washington office (phone number will be on their website) and ask for the name of the Legislative Assistant who handles environment, interior, and/or public lands issues. Then you can compose and send them an e-mail (all House of Representatives' emails follow the convention: FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@mail.house.gov) providing information on the Bill and asking that the Member become a cosponsor. Make sure to include your name, address, and contact information, and the contact information of your organization, if applicable. If several members of your organization live in the District, each should send a communication.

Track the Bill's progress at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1572>

Learn more at www.botanybill.weebly.com



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