

Suggested Town Hall Talking Points

- **Open by thanking the Senator/Congressman:**

- *Thank you* for your support of the Wilderness expansions in 2009.
- Now more than ever we need you to stand up to special interests to ensure our wild places are adequately protected.

Talking Points:

- **Public lands belong in public hands!**

- We need to protect our public lands as they provide world class recreational opportunities, clean water, carbon storage in our forests, and the last best habitat for wildlife. These values are at risk.
- Right now, there are numerous proposals in Salem and DC to transfer or privatize our public lands, which would erode the public ownership of those lands.
- What will you do to stop our National Forests, Parks, and Wildlife Refuges from being transferred or sold?
- Transferring land to the states is a slippery slope towards privatization. States are often encouraged to auction off public lands to balance budgets, as can be seen with the Elliott State Forest.

- **Protect Wilderness and Recreation Areas**

- I encourage you to expand protections for our natural treasures like Crater Lake and the Ochoco Mountains.

- **Stand up to Trump**

- The Trump administration is waging a war on science-based environmental policies and climate regulations.
- What will you do to stop Trump and his cabinet as they try to weaken or eliminate bedrock environmental regulations that safeguard our air, water, and climate?

- **Support Oregon's recreation industry**

- A new study found that outdoor experiences remain a primary driver of visitation to our state, with 23 percent of overnight visitors indicating the outdoors was a primary reason for visiting (the national average is 13 percent).
- Please support Oregon's growing recreation industry by advocating for the protection of our public lands.

Town Halls - General Info

FORMAT:

Town halls typically follow a consistent format. Get there early to get a good seat. If you want to ask a question/comment you likely have to sign up upon arrival. You will likely be given a raffle ticket and staffers will pull numbers from a hat to determine who gets to speak. There is no guarantee your number will get called, which is why it's important to make a statement in other ways: sign holding outside, talking to staffers afterwards. Sit in the front row and hold your sign in your lap so the Senator/Congressman sees it the whole time.

TIPS ON HOW TO COMMENT:

We understand that people can get really nervous, but your comments don't have to be eloquent. Comments can and should be ***short and to the point***. In order to be most effective, bring in ***personal connections*** you might have to your issue (fav. camping area, water quality, recreation, wildlife, climate change threats to grandchildren, etc). Also, try to stay focused on topics that the senator can influence such as, Oregon needs more Wilderness designations and keeping public lands public are good topics.

Be redundant to the point of polite annoyance. People sometimes hear someone reference the issue you were planning on talking about, and you feel like the topic has been covered so you either don't say anything or ask a question about a different topic. It is important to remember that the more the senator hears about a specific issue, the more she/he will focus on it.

Ask for their stance on an issue and what specifically they will do to address the problem. If they deliberately dodge your question, don't be shy to follow up and tactfully demand a clearer response. Remember, they work for you and everyone else in the room!