

Suggested Town Hall Talking Points

Talking Points and Questions:

Protect Wilderness and Recreation Areas

- Only 4% of Oregon is protected as Wilderness, putting us behind all neighboring states. How will you work to find a better balance that safeguards our natural treasures?
- Our forests store vast amounts of carbon for centuries. Will you work to protect our forests as a tool to help curb climate change?
- Will you support protections for our natural treasures like Crater Lake and the Ochoco Mountains?
- Wilderness and public lands support the outdoor recreation economy in Oregon. According to the Outdoor Industry Assoc, that generates 172,000 jobs.
- The Wild Rogue is home to world class rafting and hiking as well as key salmon runs and other wildlife habitat. You recently reached into Congressman DeFazio's district and insisted that the amazing Wild Rogue Wilderness not be protected there. Would you be comfortable with outsiders doing the same in your district?
- Environmental laws that protect clean air and clean water are under constant threat from the Trump administration, what will you do to stop that trend?
- You have recently supported allowing 10,000 acre clear cuts on public lands (the Westerman bill). These lands are our natural heritage that provide recreational opportunities, clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat. This is outrageous and I encourage you to reconsider.

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 in upon arrival. You will be given a raffle ticket and they 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/Congressperson sees it the whole time.

Tips on How to comment:

We understand that people can get really nervous. Don't worry, your comments don't have to be eloquent. Comments can and should be **short and to the point**. In order to be most effective, make it personal to the issue by mentioning topics such as fav camping area, water quality, recreation, wildlife, climate change threats to grandchildren, etc. Try to stay focused on topics that the senator/congressperson 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. You might hear someone reference the issue you were planning on talking about, and 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 think it's important.

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 ask for a clearer response. Remember, they work for you and everyone else in the room!