



Gather Your Friends for A Letter-Writing Party

Ask your Members of Congress to protect and restore America's freshwater ecosystems

Step 1: Know the Main Ask – Support America’s freshwater ecosystems

Freshwater is essential for sustaining our everyday lives, supporting everything from the food we eat to the clothes we wear. Yet, freshwater ecosystems face severe threats from overuse, pollution, and habitat destruction, all of which contribute to water scarcity by depleting water sources, degrading water quality, and disrupting natural water cycles.

Step 2: Planning and Logistics

Select a location and send out invitations! Whether you invite a small group of close friends or open this opportunity up to your larger community, make sure to choose an appropriate venue and the logistics are clear to your attendees. Plan for how you'll reach out to people: social media, email, local community boards, etc.

Step 3: Gather Supplies and Background Information

Have paper, pens, envelopes, addresses for your targets on hand, and stamps if you're mailing in your letters. Below are talking points that provide more background on why our country’s freshwater systems need our help now more than ever.

- The loss of freshwater species is twice as large as the decline in terrestrial and marine species populations. Over the past 50 years, freshwater species populations have declined, on average, by 83%. (LPR, 2024).
- Almost 50% of the world's population will face severe water scarcity by 2030 without urgent action.
- Freshwater ecosystems cannot save themselves from the demands we place on them, and traditional protection measures only go so far. It's time to protect critically important freshwater connectivity corridors and habitats.
- We have the science and tools to restore wetlands, reconnect streams and rivers with their floodplains, buffer against flooding, and create, maintain, and expand wetlands.
- Freshwater fisheries sustain over 200 million people globally, providing crucial nutrition, especially in vulnerable communities, and supporting 60 million jobs, predominantly for women.

Step 4: Gather Your Friends and Community

Meet and write! When the big day comes, it can help to discuss the main ask and talking points as a group and everyone's own personal stories before putting pen to paper.

Step 5: Take Action and Share Your Wins

Send letters and follow up. The letters should be sent around the same time for the most impact. Follow up with the participants and encourage them to organize their own letter writing parties, share their experiences, or follow up with their representatives.