How to work with existing cosponsors

So your member of Congress is a sponsor on the Energy Innovation Act. Hooray! But now what?

Below is guidance for continuing to maintain and build your relationship with your member of Congress.

Members of Congress get a lot of negative feedback, so giving them appreciation for positive action helps them weather that and stay motivated to keep taking positive action. It is also useful for them to keep seeing evidence of support for their sponsorship.

1. Keep thanking your member for their cosponsorship with calls, emails, letters, letters to the editor in local newspapers, op-eds and social media posts.
2. Continue collecting constituent comment forms that thank them.
3. Keep getting endorsements. Leverage your member of Congress's support to get further endorsements that might be influential beyond your district (with your Senator or nationwide)
4. Ask your newspaper to praise the member of Congress and endorse the bill.
5. Educate the public on the Energy Innovation Act and your member of Congress’s support for it
6. Ask others outside of CCL to thank your member of Congress - individuals as well as organizations, businesses, and community leaders.
7. Think about the events you can invite your member of Congress to that offers them the opportunity to highlight their leadership on climate and the bill.

What to do in lobby meetings with your member of Congress

1. Continue to thank them and to show them support in the community for their action
2. Let them know what you know about the progress of the bill (including new co-sponsors)
3. Ask them how your chapter can help in the district with their climate agenda, for example organizing a local forum on climate or helping to gain the support of particular community influencers.
4. Ask them about supporting one of the bills in our Supporting Asks resource.
5. Ask your member of Congress to talk to their colleagues to encourage them to become cosponsors. Ask them for their advice or help with other members of your state delegation.