join federal environmental lobbying table?

Hello!

This is an invitation to participate in an Ad Hoc Group of public interest advocates who lobby the U.S. federal government (Congress and the executive branch) on environmental issues, broadly defined.

This informal group has already been meeting for several years, but as people come and go from organizations, I find it is helpful to send a reminder now and then.

The purpose is to promote coordination among advocates as we respond to current activity on environmental issues at the federal level in the Congress and the Administration, especially on cross-cutting bills and initiatives. Individuals who are in government relations roles in your organization—or in a coalition or network for which you are a liaison or leader—are the most likely to find this Ad Hoc Group useful.

We begin each meeting with an opportunity for BIPOC-led groups, non-legacy groups, and others outside traditional power structures to highlight current federal lobbying priorities.

**Please pass this message along to others in your organization or network if this is not relevant to your role.**

As you may know, the Green Group of national environmental organizations disbanded in early 2021, providing an opportunity for new entities to form that are founded on principles of diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion. This Ad Hoc Group was intended to be an interim effort that fills the need for coordination on federal lobbying. As a better alternative as not yet emerged, we have continued to meet.

This group is intended to be complementary to existing coordinating bodies, such as the People Over Polluters (POP) listserv/calls and the Climate Action Campaign (CAC).  The Ad Hoc Group is not an agenda-setting entity.

The Ad Hoc Group includes:

* A bi-weekly virtual meeting when Congress is in session, on Mondays at noon Eastern Time;
* A Google Group listserv for collaboration, including scheduling the biweekly meetings; sharing or requesting information or intel, and circulating sign-on letters;
* Rotating facilitation;
* Ground rules for participation, which will be updated as needed and agreed on by the participants in the Ad Hoc Group; and
* A recurring opportunity to identify useful contacts at other organizations involved in federal government relations.

Fill out [this Google form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HCB96HznIK6unlHBRphnBbGKhdYahtc2UHzslvEW0hQ/edit) to be added to the Google group. No permanent commitments are necessary – you are welcome to check it out to see if it is useful to you.

Oceana manages the Google group, providing Zoom links for meetings and other activities to support the group. Decisions on how the group operates should be made by consensus or a voting process agreed on by the participants.

As an example, a recent agenda is inserted below. The draft ground rules and logistics are linked [HERE](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ibge6yF7wJ37_1WWuP_xGhEihlSFlvZ4nPj3lsP8prI/edit).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lara Levison at 202-422-9049 (mobile) or llevison@oceana.org.

If you are interested in participating in the Ad Hoc Group, please fill out [this Google form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HCB96HznIK6unlHBRphnBbGKhdYahtc2UHzslvEW0hQ/edit) to be added to the Google group.

Best regards,

Lara

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**Proposed Agenda for Monday, December 16, 2024** - please edit/comment

Time: 12 noon ET/9 am PT

**Facilitating:** (name, organization, email)

* Introductions
	+ Please put your name and your organizational affiliation in your Zoom square.
	+ Encourage new attendees to introduce themselves (verbal or chat)
* Opportunity for BIPOC-led groups, non-legacy groups, and others outside traditional power structures to highlight your current federal lobbying priorities.
* Congress
	+ Appropriations
	+ Legislation
	+ Hearings & markups
	+ Nominations
* Biden Administration
	+ Policy announcements
	+ Regulatory activity (Current [Unified Agenda](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain))
* Legal/Supreme Court
* Events/Miscellaneous updates
* Housekeeping
	+ Request for volunteers to facilitate meetings:
		- Monday, January 13 – name, organization, email
		- Monday, January 27 (Senate in, House not) -
		- Monday, February 10 -
		- Monday, February 24 -