Tips for Talking with Legislators

* Always be courteous.
* Have an outline and know in advance what you’re going to say.
* Let them know you are a constituent in their district.
* Rely on the facts, but personalize the issue and share how it impacts you.
* Be constructive and positive- avoid complaining.
* Be concise, keep it brief (500 words or less in letters). Don’t overwhelm them with information.
* Be clear and direct in your request of what you want them to do to address your concerns.

Increasing Your Impact with Legislators

* Encourage colleagues (FLCs, growers, clients, service providers, etc.) to reach out- more voices amplify the message.
* Use the CFLCA message templates, but remember that personal messages are the most impactful.
* Request a meeting to discuss the issue further.
  + Use the CFLCA provided talking points as a guide.
  + Invite colleagues to be part of the meeting but keep to small groups of 3-4.
  + You might meet with a staffer rather than the legislator; they report back to the legislators about what is important to their constituents.
  + Meetings may be offered virtually rather than in-person.
* Approach it as building a relationship with your legislator- lobbying and political change take time.