



Centralina Council of Governments

GROWING Jobs and Our Economy | CONTROLLING Cost of Government | IMPROVING Quality of Life

CCOG Delegates Building Federal Relations

CCOG is working to develop strong working relationships with our region's Congressional Delegation. As a CCOG Delegate, assisting in this effort will benefit your community and the region by enhancing your Congressional Members' understanding of:

- ◆ the value of our regional collaboration in growing jobs and the economy, controlling cost of government, and improving quality of life; and,
- ◆ how specific federal grant programs and technical assistance are being used by CCOG to benefit your community's residents and businesses.

Delegates may be asked to help in three ways, with support from CCOG staff and federal relations consultant:

1) Local Events -- Meet your Member of Congress at local events when they are home from Washington, DC:

- ◆ 1st meeting: introduce yourself as your jurisdiction's representative on the CCOG Board of Delegates; emphasize the importance of regional collaboration;
- ◆ Subsequent meetings: provide a brief progress update on 1 or more regional initiatives of CCOG, and/or provide a photo op, and/or thank them for supporting CCOG efforts.

CCOG will provide a copy of Congress' current schedule, progress update/thank-you talking points, and reminders of when your delegation members may be home from DC.

2) Trips to DC – Arrange to meet with your Member of Congress when you are planning to be in DC for other business:

- ◆ Purpose(s): If 1st meeting, see above, plus provide a brief progress update on 1 or more regional initiatives of CCOG, and/or request specific assistance for CCOG matter, and/or invite them to tour a local project, and/or thank them for supporting CCOG efforts.

Let CCOG staff/consultant know when you have a trip to DC coming up so we can assist with arranging the meeting. We will confer with you to identify a relevant main purpose for the meeting, and will provide you with talking points in advance.

3) Time-sensitive/Critical Issues – CCOG may from time to time ask you to email or phone your Member of Congress to relay an urgent message on an issue of critical importance to CCOG and the region:

- ◆ All-delegation messages – all CCOG Delegates are asked relay a message within a set timeframe, when the issue warrants attention from the entire Congressional Delegation;
- ◆ Delegate-specific messages – specific CCOG Delegates are asked to relay a message within a set timeframe, when the issue pertains only to a particular Member of Congress representing the CCOG Delegate's jurisdiction, or who sits on a particular Congressional Committee.

CCOG staff/consultant will send an email notice requesting CCOG Delegate action, along with the suggested message text to be given to Members of Congress.

CCOG staff/consultant contacts: Vicki Bott (vbott@centralina.org) or Leslie Mazingo (leslie@strategics.consulting)