

Mars Exploration Act Local Congressional Meeting Approach

To effectively request a meeting with your local representative and discuss the Draft Mars Exploration Act, it's important to prepare a structured approach. Here's how you can proceed:

Step 1: Request a Meeting

1. **Identify Your Representative:** Find the contact information for your local representative. This information is typically available on their official website.
2. **Write a Formal Request:** Draft a concise email or letter requesting a meeting. This may be accomplished via their on-line form. Be sure to mention your affiliation with the Mars Society and your purpose for the meeting. Here's a sample template:

Subject: Request for Meeting to Discuss the Draft Mars Exploration Act

Dear [Representative's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a member of the Mars Society, an organization dedicated to promoting the human exploration and settlement of Mars. I am writing to request a meeting to discuss an important piece of proposed legislation, the Draft Mars Exploration Act, which aims to advance the United States' efforts in exploring Mars.

The Act outlines a bold vision for human exploration of Mars, which I believe aligns with our nation's long-standing commitment to innovation and scientific discovery. I would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how you might support this initiative, including becoming a co-sponsor of the bill.

I am available at your convenience and would be happy to adjust to your schedule. Thank you for considering my request, and I look forward to the possibility of speaking with you.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]
Mars Society Member

Step 2: Prepare for the Meeting

Once your meeting is confirmed, prepare the following:

1. **Know the Bill:** Be familiar with the entire Draft Mars Exploration Act, its goals, and its language. Understand the specific benefits it outlines and be ready to explain these clearly.
2. **Key Talking Points:**
 - **Scientific Significance:** Discuss the potential for discovering life on Mars and the broader implications for understanding life in the universe.
 - **Technological Readiness:** Highlight that the U.S. is technologically prepared for such missions, with advanced heavy lift launch vehicles and a dynamic space industrial sector.
 - **Economic and Educational Benefits:** Emphasize how this initiative could stimulate economic growth and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs.
 - **National Security and Global Leadership:** Frame the Mars mission as a way to maintain U.S. leadership in space exploration and counter the narrative of authoritarian regimes.
3. **Anticipate Questions:** Prepare answers to potential questions your representative may ask, such as funding sources, feasibility, international collaboration, and more.
4. **Bring Supporting Materials:** Consider bringing additional materials, such as a one-page summary of the Act, infographics, or charts illustrating the benefits of Mars exploration.

Step 3: Conduct the Meeting

1. **Be Concise and Clear:** Start with a brief introduction and state the purpose of your meeting. Use your key talking points to guide the conversation.
2. **Listen and Engage:** Be attentive to your representative's questions or concerns. Show that you are open to discussion and willing to provide further information.
3. **Ask for Support:** Clearly state your request for them to consider co-sponsoring the bill. Offer to follow up with any additional information they may need.
4. **Follow-Up:** Send a thank you email or letter reiterating your appreciation for their time and consideration, and restate your request for support.

By following these steps, you can effectively communicate the importance of the Draft Mars Exploration Act and potentially gain your representative's support for the bill.

Any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Dan Gallegos dan@dangallegos.com

Good luck with your meeting!