

\*Get to know your Legislator; to make a real difference, develop a relationship. You will probably not agree on every issue, but you can still build a positive and lasting relationship with honest and open discussion.

\*Get to know legislative staff; Legislators rely heavily on professional staff to provide them with critical information gathering and issue analysis. Staff appreciates sources of accurate, concise, and clear information. Citizens can become extremely valuable to staff. If they come to rely on you for data, you will become an invaluable asset to them and their door will be open to you.

\*Maintain year-round contact year-round contact. Most Legislators are active twelve months of the year. The best time to firm your relationship is when the Legislators are in their home districts.

\*Be honest and respectful of the time and commitment the Legislator makes in the form of public service. Honesty, friendliness, and cooperation are the best ways to establish and develop an effective working relationship with your Legislator.

\*If you do not know the answer to a question, volunteer to retrieve the information and report back- THEN DO IT! Your word is your credibility.

## ***Know Your B's***

BE informed...know the issues before talking to legislators.

BE brief...legislators are busy, session is hectic.

BE friendly...keep in touch all year, not just when you want something.

BE a worthy opponent...**fight issues-not persons.**

BE constructive...you don't like to be preached to-neither do legislators.

BE understanding...know your legislators positions.

BE reasonable...recognize that there are differences of opinion.

BE realistic...legislation yields compromise.

BE fair...legislators are people, too.

BE discreet...**respect confidences.**