



MCAA Grassroots Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

What is the purpose of these congressional meetings? What should I be saying?

Meeting with your Congressman or his/her staff is an effective way for you to educate the United States Congress on how the courier industry operates. The first meetings should be viewed as an opportunity to get to know one another so a strong relationship can be developed. The purpose of these meetings will be to introduce your business and the industry to your elected representatives. Explain how your business impacts the local economy. Mention other industries that, because of your company, are able to operate more efficiently.

Will I be supplied with any documents prior to my meeting?

Yes, prior to your meeting you will be given support documents and talking points outlining a few key topics that should be mentioned to your Congressman. You should also review the document summarizing what to expect from your first meeting with your elected official. Finally, you will be given position papers on independent contactors and the courier industry as well as a leave behind document with more detailed information for your Congressman or his/her to read after the meeting has been completed.

What has happened to trigger the need for these meetings?

The courier industry is an integral part of the American economy, providing transportation of packages, medical supplies, bulk materials and documents among businesses and corporations in the United States and beyond. Most Members of Congress have absolutely no knowledge of what occurs in the typical courier company.

The government also has been cracking down on the courier industry in a number of ways. State agencies are not providing clear and consistent regulatory guidance and most of the pending state legislation on independent contractor reform dismantles the current and historical system. For the first time in a decade, there have been congressional hearings discussing independent contractor misclassification.

In addition, regulations such as the current meal and rest period regulation in California deny employees the flexibility regarding when they take meal breaks. These regulations provide unnecessary penalties, lack needed flexibility, and jeopardize the safety of our country's drivers.

Are these meetings for companies that use mostly independent contractors or employee drivers?

Every courier company should participate in this grassroots program. These initial meetings are not about independent contractors and employee based companies, the meetings are about educating Members of Congress about the courier industry as a whole. The ideal outcome of these meetings will be for the United States Congress to have a better understanding about how our industry operates and its importance to the economy.

What is appropriate attire?

Dress and act professionally at all times. Your Congressman probably knows little about the courier industry so try to make a strong first impression. Suits and ties are not necessary but they are recommended.

What should I do after the meeting?

After the meeting is completed report the result to the appropriate person or committee in the MCAA. Send a thank-you note, including the outcomes of the meeting that you wish to emphasize. Be informed of your Congressman's scheduled public or "town" meetings and try to attend them. If you are attending a function and you see your Congressman, reintroduce yourself, noting your affiliation and acquaintance with his/her staff. Spend time establishing a good relationship with the Congressman's staff. Be sure they know that they can count on you as a resource.

Should I meet with just my House of Representative or my Senators as well?

Assuming your Congressman have district offices close by, you should try to meet with all three of your Members of Congress to educate them on the courier industry. Having strong relationships with your Congressman from both houses will be critical in case any harmful legislation is introduced in the future. When you decide to conduct a meeting, MCAA staff will identify which of your Members of Congress should be targeted first based on their political stances and committee membership.

Should I meet with my Member of Congress from just where my company headquarters is located? What about my branch offices and home address?

Some of you have company headquarters in one congressional district, branch offices in other districts, and then live in another congressional district. If you know your Members of Congress from your home residence, you should meet with them as well. Just let MCAA staff know when you have scheduled a meeting. You can also send MCAA staff the addresses of your branch offices so the corresponding Members of Congress can be identified.