



Letters to the editor

WHY WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR (LTE)?

Writing a letter to the editor is a free and effective way to help influence public debate around an issue. Policymakers in particular read the letters to the editor section of local newspapers to understand what issues are most important to their constituents. A single letter can reach thousands of members in your community.

You can help shape opinions by sharing personal stories or facts, and pressuring decision-makers to act in the best interest of your cause.

Since LTEs live on newspapers' online editions, well-timed LTEs can both counter current misinformation and rally community support, while also amplifying efforts far beyond its publication.

How to write a LTE?

The letter should briefly describe your concern, and any personal or community connection to the issue, along with a recommended solution. Short letters (under 200 words, or about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a page) have the best chance of being published.

If you are citing information or statistics, it is helpful to include a link to your source so the editor will know your material is factual. This increases the chance of your piece being published.

Three samples are provided below. (You may feel free to borrow these drafts, edit them to match your personal tone or style, and submit them to your local newspaper.)

SAMPLE LTE #1

I recently learned about proposals in Congress to remove grizzly bears from Endangered Species Act protection, and I am deeply concerned. Grizzlies are not only iconic symbols of American wilderness, but they also play a critical role in creating healthy American landscapes. *[include local grizzly information here, as able]*.

Despite decades of recovery efforts, grizzly populations remain fragile and isolated, occupying a fraction of their historic range. They still face significant threats, including losing their habitat to development, climate change, human interactions, and limited genetic diversity. Removing them from their endangered status now would be premature and dangerous.

We must not allow short-term political interests to undo long-term conservation success, especially for a species as iconic as the grizzly bear. Grizzlies still need our protection — and the Endangered Species Act remains their best chance at a stable future



SAMPLE LTE #2

On a recent trip to *[where did you see a grizzly bear]*, I had the incredible experience of seeing a grizzly bear from a safe distance. It was a powerful reminder of how lucky we are to still share the land with these amazing animals.

I learned this moment might not be possible for my children's generation if proposals made in Congress today strip away their Endangered Species Act protections. Grizzlies still face major threats—losing habitat, conflicts with people, and climate change. They've only returned to a fraction of their historic range, and many populations remain isolated and at risk.

The Endangered Species Act is the best safety net we have to protect the grizzly. It's what helped bring them back from the brink in the first place. Taking these iconic animals off the list too soon could undo decades of progress and put them in danger all over again.

Let's keep doing what works. Grizzlies still need our protection—and we still need the chance to see them thrive.

SAMPLE LTE #3

What does *[fill in a local endangered species here, example: a tiny piping plover on Long Island]* have to do with a huge, powerful grizzly in the Rockies? They are both protected by the Endangered Species Act, and they are both in peril from proposals moving their way through Congress.

Congress is debating legislation that seeks to remove Endangered Species Protection from Grizzly bears. Despite decades of recovery efforts, grizzly populations remain fragile and isolated, occupying a fraction of their historic range. They still face significant threats, including losing their habitat to development, climate change, human interactions, and limited genetic diversity. Removing them from their Endangered status now would be premature and dangerous.

They are also seeking to drastically weaken protections for all Endangered Species, making it harder to protect their habitat and increasing harm to threatened species.

We must not allow short-term political interests to undo long-term conservation success, especially for a species as iconic as the grizzly bear. From the mighty grizzly to the fragile piping plover, endangered species still need our protection — and the Endangered Species Act remains their best chance at a stable future.

How to submit your LTE

Navigate to the Opinions section of your local newspapers' website. There will likely be a link with submission information. Often, this will include an online form or email address where you can send your letter.

Pay close attention to required information that needs to be submitted along with your letter, such as your name, email address, a short bio, headshot, etc. Check the "Contact us" page if you don't find this information on the Opinions page, or type the name of the paper along with "letter to the editor" into a search bar.