Public hearings are an integral part of the legislative process, serving as a valuable opportunity for organizations and individuals to share their opinions and urge Committees to support or oppose pending legislation. Below are some tips on how to prepare for and engage your legislators at a public hearing.

**Before the Hearing**

**Research the issue**—Gather information on the bill you are interested in, including the current text, co-sponsors, up-to-date actions on the bill, who introduced it, and its purpose/impacts. You can do so at the CGA’s website [HERE](#) or by calling the bill status information room at (860) 240-0555.

**Plan your remarks**—Your time will limited, so it’s important to map out what you’re going to say in advance of the hearing so that your views and reasoning will be as clear and concise as possible. Writing out your testimony word for word or putting together talking points are both effective ways to ensure that you stay organized and get your point across.

If you’d like to submit written testimony you can email your written testimony to appropriate committees directly or you can submit your written remarks at the hearing, but be sure to bring copies for all of the committee members as well as their staff.

**Finding the hearing room**—The majority of Committee proceedings are held at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. See below for a list of relevant committees, their contact information and room numbers.

  - **Public hearing testimony**: app testimoney@cga.ct.gov
  - **Public hearing testimony**: ettestimony@cga.ct.gov
  - **Public hearing testimony**: envtestimony@cga.ct.gov
  - **Public hearing testimony**: pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov

**At the Hearing**

**Signing up**—In order to be included in the queue, you’ll need to sign up beforehand. Sign-up sheets are generally available outside of the hearing room an hour before proceedings commence and may ask for your name, organization, the bills you’ll be addressing, and potentially whether you oppose or support the legislation up for consideration.

**When it’s your turn to speak**—Upon being called, begin by introducing yourself, mention your town, and the bill number and title you’ll be addressing. From there, state your support, opposition, or desire to improve the bill at the
outset of your remarks then explain yourself accordingly. Try to keep it brief, 3-5 minutes, and remain at the microphone for a moment before returning to your seat if legislators have any questions.