

WV Sierra Club will be hosting *Citizen Lobbying Day*

Starting this Wednesday, January 15th, and *each subsequent* Wednesday throughout the Legislative Session, you're invited to come to the capitol to fill a vital role. Nothing carries the weight of voters coming to Charleston to demand answers and accountability from their elected officials. Remember, they're working for you – you pay their salary.

Some recent travesties:

*West Virginia officials knew that a supplier to the coal industry was storing a toxic chemical near the Elk River that had the potential, if it leaked, to poison the water supplies of hundreds of thousands of people. Why did they have virtually no information on this toxic chemical on hand when it **did** leak?*

Why are state officials now scratching their heads and sounding surprised about the disaster? [Here's some excellent reporting from the Charleston Saturday Gazette-Mail](#), asking why there was no plan in place for dealing with such an emergency. Is DEP inept? Underfunded? Who's running the store?

And this...by the stroke of a pen, DEP Secretary Randy Huffman voided the law that restricts the size of WV landfills. He did so to accommodate the drilling industry's need to dispose of potentially toxic radioactive waste. In a democracy, how does this happen? Why do we need a Legislature if the DEP can change the law?

Why were WVU researchers blocked from getting the proper tests for radioactivity and toxins at Marcellus drill sites during the legislatively mandated DEP study?

How many will press legislators to do what is needed to get out from under this tsunami of extractive industry abuses?

Who will hold their feet to the fire at the Legislature? If not you...who? We need you to come to the Legislature and make it clear that enough is enough!

Hook up with us on arrival (call 304 545 6325) and we'll make your visit as painless and expeditious as possible. No previous experience is needed. Really. We're working in coordination with allied environmental groups at the capitol, so there will be plenty of experienced green lobbyists to assist you.

Try to make appointments with your reps in advance to avoid missing them.

Not sure who your reps are? Find out what Senatorial district you're in [here](#) and your Delegate's district [here](#); then find out who your Senators and Delegates are [here](#) and [here](#)

Tip: Bring good water with you. You might even have some samples of toxic water from your home turf to share.

See helpful articles + lobbyist training events below for more inspiration. Hope to see you at the Capitol.

Thanks.

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