



National Caucus of Environmental Legislators MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Supporting State Collaboration for a Healthier Mississippi River

NCEL created the Mississippi River Legislative Caucus (MRLC) to assist legislators representing districts in the watershed that are committed to a thriving and healthy river. Our goal is to build the capacity of state legislators to more effectively address river health and water quality issues, and to create a forum for collaboration on growing communities and local economies. MRLC creates opportunities for state lawmakers to interface with river mayors, members of Congress, advocacy groups, and the business community.



How to Join

There is no cost to join the MRLC and membership is open to all state legislators within the 10-state Mississippi River region. For more information or to join, please contact the Sustainable Agriculture and Water Specialist, Beatrice O'Connor, at beatrice@ncelenviro.org.



Caucus Activities

MRLC staff provide support to legislators throughout the corridor to collaborate with their peers across state and party lines. Legislators are encouraged to contact staff for assistance on any watershed-related issue.



In-State Briefings and Tours

MRLC hosts in-state events and tours to provide hands-on learning, hear from MRLC members, and provide policy resources. These events provide an opportunity for legislators to meet with colleagues throughout the region and hear about issues facing local communities. Members may request a briefing to highlight the latest research and opportunities for clean water and more resilient river communities.



Regional Forum

MRLC organizes an Annual Forum each Fall to enable lawmakers in river states to share successful programs and ideas, as well as learn about innovative solutions from other regions.



Legislative Tracking

MRLC staff track the introduction and progress of bills related to flood resilience, nutrient pollution, soil health, and sustainable agriculture. MRLC offers assistance to lawmakers, such as scientific data, tactical expertise, communication strategies, and successful examples from other states.