



Ecological Restoration Business Association
8270 Greensboro Drive, Suite 700
Tysons, Virginia 22102
P: 703-584-8375 · www.mitigationbanking.org

ERBA members are part of a growing, job-creating ecological restoration industry. We are fortunate that our industry is spread over vast stretches of the country, and this gives us access to a large segment of Congress. There are approved or pending mitigation banks now in 255 of the 435 Congressional Districts. Each bank represents a landowner, a significant investment, jobs created, and the ability to streamline infrastructure project approvals. Ultimately, each is an affirmation of the spirit of American entrepreneurialism to resolve national issues.

With these messages in mind, we must collectively work to engage with Congress, starting with each ERBA member reaching out to their local Representative's and Senators' offices. You can use <http://www.house.gov/> to look up which Member may represent a particular bank by zip code. Here are a few points to emphasize in your communications with a Member or their staff:

- Mitigation banks are highly regulated enterprises that have historically been proven to deliver the highest quality, most reliable offset to environmental impacts.
- Mitigation banks create jobs in both the short and long-run by restoring the environment and providing funds for continued protection and maintenance.
- Where mitigation credits are used for the project, permitting times are reduced by half.
- Depending on the specific situation, the mitigation bank investment may be an important income stream for small farmers dealing with the vagaries of agricultural prices.
- In places without a mitigation bank alternative, public infrastructure projects languish for years in regulatory review for lack of environmental offsets.
- Mitigation banks represent a "grass roots" investment with over 1500 banks operating in nearly all 50 states.
- A mitigation bank is a private investment into "green infrastructure" to help offset the impacts associated with economic growth.
- Mitigation banks are a private investment solution providing a public good. They create environmental benefit whether they sell their credits or not. They do not encourage impacts, which are required by law to be minimized and avoided before mitigation can be considered.

In addition to these talking points, personalize your message with updates on the successes and challenges of your own projects sited in the Congressman's backyard. Every ERBA member can help by introducing mitigation projects to your Congressional district staff, keeping them informed of your implementation progress, showing them how sales of credits facilitate important public infrastructure in their district, and giving them a tour of your project. Everybody likes to get out of the office occasionally!

Lastly, keep in mind the importance of your Congressional engagement. This initiative is about building relationships at the grassroots level, so that when ERBA needs a strong voice on legislative language or policy, ERBA is in the best position to ask and Members of Congress are already familiar with the good work of the mitigation bankers.

Heading to DC? Reach out to your Executive Director, Sara Johnson, and ERBA's lobbyists, Shelby Hagenauer and Jay Sterne, to set up meetings on the Hill or provide feedback on your own federal agency and Hill visits' conversations. This feedback will inform and coordinate ERBA's DC outreach.