

JASON C. RANO

VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Senior Government Relations Executive with 15+ years of experience overseeing the creation and implementation of legislative and regulatory initiatives and proposals at the local, state, and federal levels. Expert at quickly developing and leveraging policy expertise to directly engage Congressional staff, committees, lobbyists, local and federal agency officials, and key stakeholders, creating an impact on various issues.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS EXPERTISE INCLUDES:

Government Affairs | Advocacy | Team Leadership | Strategic Communications | Public Policy
Legislative Research | Partnership and Coalition Building | Congressional Hearings | Speech Writing
Contract Lobbyist Management | Public Speaking | Budget Oversight | Interpersonal Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION (NPF), Washington, DC Sept 2014 – Present

VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (Aug 2017 – Present)

Advise President/CEO, Chief of Staff, Board of Directors and senior leadership on legislative issues; serve as lead liaison to Capitol Hill to pass and monitor legislation.

- Develop and implement strategic legislative and messaging plans to educate members of Congress, their staff, and partners in close coordination with officials at Department of Interior and National Park Service (NPS), including Chief of Staff, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Director, and Deputy Directors.
- Increase presence of NPF's government relations through series of panel discussions on Capitol Hill and throughout the country highlighting key initiatives, projects, programs, and work in the field.
- Conduct legislative research and write Congressional testimony and talking points for speeches for President/CEO and Board members.
- Create and administer \$350K annual government relations budget; manage Manager, Government Relations and contract lobbyists.
- Oversee execution of Board of Directors Annual Hill Day with external government affairs firm.
- Coordinate with NPF Board of Directors and present before Board at quarterly meetings.
- Serve as sole Vice President member of NPF Senior Executive team.

DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (Sept 2014 – Aug 2017)

Developed and implemented strategy to engage Congress on National Park Service Centennial including establishing and maintaining relationships with 100+ committee (House Natural Resources, Senate Energy and Natural Resources, House and Senate Appropriations) leadership and personal staff.

- Led coalition effort to draft and pass the National Park Service Centennial Act, which was signed into law on December 16, 2016.
- Passed NPS 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act; oversaw design of coins and developed marketing plan to sell coins to national park visitors that generated \$2.3M revenue.
- Conducted legislative research and drafted Congressional testimony for Board Member and President/CEO to testify before House Natural Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees.
- Spoke on panels, including the Outdoor Retailer Show in Salt Lake City and the annual DC Friends Alliance meeting, and at Congressional briefings regarding public lands and national parks.
- Introduced, planned, and executed three lobby days for 25 members of Board of Directors to educate them on legislative issues, draft talking points, and identify individuals to lobby.
- Managed \$250K-\$300K government relations budget; hired and managed Coordinator, Government Relations; oversaw 3-5 government affairs consultant on a regular basis.
- Interfaced regularly with NPF President/CEO, Chief of Staff, Executive Vice President, Senior Vice Presidents, and Board Members; members of Congress and staff; and NPS Director and Deputy Directors.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (EWG), Washington, DC

Aug 2008 – Sept 2014

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (Sept 2011 – Sept 2014)

Established and sustained relationships with 150+ congressional, committee (including Senate EPW, Senate HELP and House Energy and Commerce), and leadership staff as well as 40 EWG coalition partners, industry trade associations, and administration officials.

- Helped lead team of 5 in-house lobbyists to analyze legislation and advocate EWG's positions with federal agencies, including the FDA, EPA, and Office of Management and Budget.
- Planned and attended 6-8 Congressional briefings and press events annually, while serving as spokesman and expert on legislative issues with national and local media outlets.

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DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP, CONT'D

- Directly managed and oversaw staff development of 4 Government Affairs/Legislative Analyst personnel.
- Collaborated with all departments, including research, communications, social media and legal, to draft and ensure coordination of EWG's message on a national level to push issues, such as agriculture, toxic chemicals, RFS reform, natural gas, and labeling of genetically engineered food, to the forefront.
- Helped build and lead bipartisan coalition to pass amendments and worked with Congressional staff to ensure inclusion of legislative language in federal laws.

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST (Aug 2010 – Sept 2011)

Represented EWG during negotiations and stakeholder discussions with Congressional staff and industry trade associations and planned Congressional briefings with EWG and outside experts.

- Served as on-the-record spokesman and expert on legislative issues with national and local media.
- Drafted testimony presented by EWG leadership before Congressional committees.
- Drafted and presented testimony before legislative committees in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and DC.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST (Aug 2008 – Aug 2010)

Participated in debate against leading industry lobbyist in Pittsburgh, PA.

- Contributed blog posts for EWG's blog and magazine on legislative issues.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES, Baltimore, MD

July 2007 – Aug 2008

DIRECTOR, HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (July 2007 – Aug 2008)

INTERIM CONTRACTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (July 2007 – Jan 2008)

Collaborated with 50+ homeless services providers to develop comprehensive contract budgets, ensure approval of yearly contracts, and train providers on new budget protocols; acted as liaison between Baltimore City Health Department and Mayor's Office to resolve any issues surrounding contracts during the approval process.

- Analyzed capacity of Baltimore City's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to assess progress toward Ten Year Plan benchmarks, HUD requirements, and program management goals.
- Managed two employees working with homeless service providers and software solutions providers to ensure improved utilization of HMIS software.
- Instituted performance measurement program to develop and track goals to combat homelessness.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CITISTAT, Baltimore, MD

June 2006 – May 2007

ANALYST / BALTIMORE CITY MAYORAL FELLOW

Utilized nationally-recognized management practices to help several Baltimore City agencies operate more effectively.

- Drafted monthly memo analyzing performance of Baltimore City Health Department synthesizing data and information from various sources, including the budget, personnel, and public health.
- Collaborated with CitiStat staff to determine and compile Mayor Sheila Dixon's top accomplishments during first 100 days in office.
- Designed and oversaw construction project production and placement of signs at Baltimore City schools; completed weekly field visits to monitor work status, researched and wrote project briefing memos for school principals, and coordinated with CitiStat staff, Baltimore City Public School System, and other Baltimore City agencies to ensure 23 schools were prepared to accept new students.
- Researched and wrote memos on commercial tax assessment in Baltimore City.

SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, Washington, DC

Jan 2003 – July 2005

LEGISLATIVE AIDE

Researched and wrote Congressional Record statements and proclamations on behalf of Senator Lautenberg.

- Coordinated with key senior staff to draft, edit, and compile memos for Senator's daily briefing packet.
- Screened and interviewed 25-30 applicants; hired and managed 7 interns each semester over the course of 3 semesters annually for the Washington, DC office.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY | Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM | American University, Washington, DC

BOARD LEADERSHIP / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BOARD MEMBER, BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD, 2008–Present

Developed and led implementation of creation of Advisory Board Scholarship for students in need of financial aid. Earned recognition as Berkshire School Volunteer of the Year, 2013.