



# **Tips for Submitting Effective Comments**

## **Overview**

A comment can express simple support or dissent for a proposed action. However, a constructive, information-rich comment that clearly communicates and supports its claims is more likely to have an impact on decision making. These tips are meant to help the public submit comments that have an impact and help with plan implementation.

## **Summary**

- Be concise but support your claims
- Base your justification on sound reasoning, scientific evidence, and/or how you will be impacted
- There is no minimum or maximum length for an effective comment
- The comment process is not a vote – one well supported, specific comment is often more influential than a thousand comments

## **Detailed Recommendations**

1. Although agencies receive and appreciate all comments, constructive comments (either positive or negative) are the most likely to have an influence.
2. When crafting a comment it is important that you adequately explain the reasoning behind your position.
3. Please include your affiliation if your comments represent an organization.
4. When possible, support your comment with data, facts, and/or opinions. You may also provide personal experience in your comment, as appropriate.
5. Consider including examples of how the policies would impact you negatively or positively.

*(Tips adapted from regulations.gov)*