

Reflections on My CVD Trip

by

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Spontaneous opportunities often prove very fruitful in advantageous ways. I was offered to attend IEEE's Congressional Visits Day (CVD) in March. This event/forum provides participants a platform to voice their concerns to their state representatives in Washington, DC. I was quick to accept with little knowledge about the event. Still, I felt empowered by a wealth of vantage resources available to draw on. I quickly felt well set and at ease to represent my community in the Nation's Capital.

We participated in two virtual workshops, which left no gaps in what to expect. On the day before visiting our Senators and Congressional Members, IEEE USA members met for a final meeting to address any changes and to answer remaining questions. Because I was the only representative for New Hampshire, I was teamed with another member, Brian, in a similar position.

I had moved from Kansas to New England, seeking better access to resources in my field. Similarly, Brian had moved with his family across many states, seeking career opportunities. Deeply vested in PELS, Brian now owns and runs his business PoweRox from

Connecticut. I quickly recognized that "we shared more in common" much more than "as individual member perspectives."

We both had the chance to express the importance of support from the Federal government to support our Nation's technological advancement. This year's subjects included the CHIPS Act, Nuclear Power, and "Open Access." With the help of the IEEE USA team, we were able to solidify our views and share our personal experiences with our Representatives.

Below are current references to Items of Interest:

- [Public Policy](#)
- Current Policy ([Public Policy Log – 118th Congress, 1st Session \(2023\)](#))
- [IEEE Policy Positions](#)
- [IEEE USA Policy News](#)

You will see that their current priorities have shifted since April.

In the short time, I've been an IEEE member, I have met many bright professionals with different perspectives and backgrounds. At its core, the organization is driven to advance technology for future generations. IEEE USA clarified that the mentioned subjects interested them, but we should not limit ourselves to those issues. Their purpose was to give us a platform to share our problems, regardless of the subject.

When one ventures into spontaneous opportunities, one gains a lot from exhilarating experiences personally and broader perspectives to

better serve humanity as a whole. CVD not only introduced me to a great experience and group of professionals but also opened my eyes to the importance of voters to our representatives. The staff was open and receptive to our concerns and excited to listen and engage in the topics. Without reservations, I recommend all IEEE members to avail of such rich opportunities available to them.

I am happy to share my picture taken in the Capitol.

