Dear SGA,

My program advisor, Dr. Jason Keller, highly recommended that I attend the Citizens’ Climate Lobby Congressional Education Day in order to supplement and grow skills and explore my interest in the realm of environmental policy. The event is structured such that the beginning is spent in workshops and educational sessions about issues, propositions, and current events that are relevant to current discussions on Capitol Hill. These workshops build up to a lobbying session in which we discuss environmental policies with senators and representatives. The mission of the Environmental Science and Policy major at Chapman is “to train scientists who can communicate with policy makers who understand science.” This conference speaks to the core values of my education and the same necessity that environmental science and policy must be interdisciplinary; unless communication is effective, neither scientists nor policymakers can make a difference. Attending this conference provides an opportunity to utilize this educational base and to amplify my impact.

I would be excited to attend this event in order to develop my professional skills, network and career path. Environmental Science and Policy is a broad field because of its interdisciplinary nature, and attending this event would provide unique insight into a career in environmental policy or lobbying. Additionally, I believe that I am a strong candidate to represent Chapman well as I build a network in our nation’s capital. I am a double major in economics and environmental science and policy, which allows me to analyze policies from the angles of both business and environment. This perspective is particularly valuable in policy analysis which necessarily affects both fields and enhances my ability to communicate effectively with politicians when they are more interested in business or environmental issues. This competency will reflect well on Chapman and will allow me to be more fully involved in the experience. I hope to deepen the experience that I gain in the communities in which I’m involved on campus by sharing the skills I learned in workshops in the clubs in which I am involved. Being the Peer Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy, I will be able to provide a better perspective on a career in environmental policy for students who are interested.

As incredible as this opportunity is, I will be unable to attend without financial assistance. Chapman is only possible for me and my family because of the generous scholarships that I receive. My mother is currently out of work and my father’s income alone does not provide a lot of room for additional expenses. I largely support myself financially, however recently I have needed to reduce the number of shifts I work at one of my three jobs in order to pursue an unpaid internship that will prove beneficial to my career.

In summary, the Citizens’ Climate Lobby Congressional Education Day is an incredible opportunity for me to apply skills learned in my Chapman education and to pursue future career paths. It would be an honor to represent Chapman and a great opportunity to supplement my education.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sara Wanous