

HOW TO COMMENT ON A FEDERAL RULEMAKING

What is Rulemaking?

Federal agencies use rulemaking to issue new rules (also called “regulations”) or change old ones. Government agencies and recipients of federal funds are required to follow these rules.

The Rulemaking Process

Agencies typically give the public notice of a proposed rule before the agency makes a final decision. Then, the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. Next, the agency invites the public to submit comments before a specified date. The comment period usually lasts between 30 and 180 days. The agency is legally required to consider each comment. After analyzing all comments, the agency publishes the final version of the rule.

How to Find Proposed Rules and Where to Submit Your Public Comment

- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and search for the key words of issues you care about, or if you know the exact proposed rule you’d like to comment on, then enter the title of the rule
- There you will find the deadline to submit public comments, and the place to submit your comments.

Making Your Comments Effective

Comments can be brief or detailed. Begin by explaining your congregation’s mission. Make clear why your organization has a perspective on issues relevant to the proposed rule. As you draft your comment, note the experiences of your congregation, relevant data, and your analysis of the proposed rule’s potential impact.

Feel free to suggest ways to improve the rule and ask the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy if they’ve already prepared materials you can use in your own comments. Remember: if you are part of a group of people commenting on a rule, ensure that you draft a separate comment from others in your group – identical comments will only be counted once by the portal.