

Rapid Response Procedures Regarding SCRA Actions Related to Public Policy

The purpose of this process is to provide a mechanism for SCRA, as an organization, to evaluate and potentially adopt public stances or action plans on public policy issues of a time sensitive nature. Since policy issues are often of immediate concern, this procedure is written to ensure the opportunity for a quick response by the organization.

1. Only the SCRA Executive Committee has the authority to endorse an action or officially adopt a policy stance.
2. Any SCRA member can generate a proposal regarding a policy stance that he or she feels should be adopted by the organization. If the policy issue is specific to a particular country then the proposal should have the support of SCRA members who are citizens of that country.
3. Three to five members of the Public Policy Committee will be designated the Action Subcommittee and will be charged with reviewing proposals.
 - a) While the Subcommittee will strive for consensus, in the event of a tie, the Policy Committee Chair shall cast the deciding vote.
 - b) Where the Public Policy Chair or Subcommittee member(s) perceive either a conflict of interest, or appearance of a conflict of interest with a particular request, a subcommittee member may be self-excused or excused by the Chair from that review.
4. Proposals submitted to the Action Subcommittee should include:
 - a) A brief description of the policy issue;
 - b) A brief explanation of the link between the policy issue and SCRA's mission and vision;
 - c) The specific action(s) proposed for SCRA to take and a requested timeframe, with the basis or justification for such timeframe (join an advocacy coalition, send a letter to a public official, etc.);
 - d) Any available web links to information regarding the policy and the people or organizations involved, or relevant data regarding the issue including any available position papers;
 - e) Arguments offered in opposition to the position recommended for SCRA, including policy statements from others, data, and a list of opponents.
5. Within 48 hours the Action Subcommittee will review the proposal and send a recommendation to the EC regarding recommended actions.
6. The EC will endeavor to take action on the recommendations within 72 hours, either through a vote on the recommendation or a request for additional information or a conference call.
7. If a policy stance is adopted or action is taken by SCRA, the initial proposer will be responsible for reporting the results of that action to the Public Policy Committee.
8. The Policy Committee will then communicate that information to the general membership through appropriate venues (TCP, the SCRA listserv, the SCRA website).