Senior Washington Representative
Food and Environment Program
Washington, DC Office

Under the direction of the Campaign Manager and in collaboration with other program staff, the Senior Washington Representative is the advocate for UCS positions on farm policy and healthy, sustainable, and just food systems to Congress, the executive branch, and members of the DC policy community.

The Senior Washington Representative role will benefit from an experienced professional motivated to work with a top-notch, multi-disciplinary team to:

• Participate in the development of UCS policy positions
• Lead legislative and regulatory activities
• Maintain a comprehensive knowledge of relevant issues
• Proactively identify opportunities to interject UCS messages into related policy debates
• Represent UCS before the media and the public
• Prepare written material for advocacy purposes; participate in outreach, membership and activist-related activities in support of program and organizational goals

Duties and responsibilities of the position include the following:

• Establish and maintain effective working relationships with congressional representatives and staff, administration officials, and allied advocates; initiate contacts or respond to inquiries to present, explain, and promote UCS positions on farm policy and healthy, sustainable, and just food systems.

• Working with the campaign manager, design and lead legislative and executive branch campaigns and other policy initiatives to win approval of progressive public policies that reflect UCS’s policy goals; assess the political landscape to identify decision-makers that can advance key policy initiatives; conduct power-mapping analysis and targeting to inform UCS campaigns to persuade these individuals; and enlist support for policy and legislative initiatives from the Congress, administration, and public-interest allies.

• Monitor the progress of legislation and policies in Congress and at federal agencies, respectively; provide additional information or assistance as
needed to congressional or executive branch staff; analyze legislation and agency policies; devise and recommend strategies to promote the passage of legislation and adoption of policies; and assess impacts on UCS agenda.

- Use strong relationships and political savvy to gain insider access to emerging legislative and regulatory proposals by policymakers and allies. Use this information to strategically interject UCS perspectives and recommendations, and make our priorities known to relevant stakeholders in the early stages of policy development.
- Develop and maintain comprehensive knowledge relevant to subject matter areas; maintain familiarity with other UCS issues.
- Participate in key coalition activities and offer legislative expertise and support to community-based allies.
- Work effectively within and across UCS departments; participate in regular cross-programmatic lobby caucus meetings and activities.
- Represent UCS to the media and general public; translate technical information into layperson-friendly language; receive and respond to media inquiries and requests for information; develop and maintain effective working relationships and frequent contact with press representatives who cover F&E issues; give presentations and attend conferences.
- Write testimony, fact sheets, briefing papers, op-ed pieces, letters, comments, articles for UCS print publications and web, and other material as needed for advocacy.

Qualifications and experience:
- Seven to ten years of relevant and comparable legislative or lobbying experience at the national or state level on environmental, agricultural, or other science policy issues.
- Position requires a B.S. or B.A. degree at minimum.
- Experience in public-interest advocacy campaigns and policy analysis, including demonstrated success in designing and leading legislative and executive branch campaigns.
- Demonstrated commitment to advocacy.
- Proven competence in science or technical policy subject matter; experience working in cross-disciplinary and cross-departmental advocacy campaigns; and proven verbal and written communication skills.
- A background in agriculture, biology, food policy, or environmental science and experience working on the Farm Bill are preferred but not
essential.

- A thorough understanding of the congressional legislative and administration policy-making processes.
- Knowledge of advocacy/lobbying techniques and strategies, including planning and implementing effective issue campaigns.
- Excellent political acumen and strong relationships with policymakers, staff, and others in the DC policy community.
- Strong strategic thinking, analytical, project management, and time management skills.
- Excellent ability to communicate scientific and policy information to lay audiences.

At UCS, comparable training and/or experience can be substituted for degrees when appropriate.

Compensation, Hours and Location: This is a full-time position based in UCS’s Washington, DC office. For candidates who meet all position requirements, the salary would be in the mid to high $70s. UCS offers excellent benefits and a rewarding work environment.

UCS is an equal opportunity employer continually seeking to diversify its staff particularly to broaden opportunities for individuals from demographic groups that are historically underrepresented in the sciences and in environmental advocacy.

To apply: Please submit a cover letter, résumé, writing sample, salary requirements and how you learned about the position via email to jandc@johnstonco.org with “DC Representative” in the subject line. Email materials in Word or PDF format only. Inquiries may be sent to: Johnston and Company: JandC@johnstonco.org or 310-410-3905. Deadline: Open until filled.