USPIRG works to ensure the voice of the public is represented and fights to pass strong public policy that protects the public interest. Since the 1980s, USPIRG has used hard hitting research and lobbying to advocate on behalf of consumers, winning real results on issues such as health care, public transit and food policy. However, just having the facts is often not enough. We win against powerful special interests through grassroots organizing: coalition building, media work and the face to face interactions that it takes to win tangible benefits for Nevadans.

USPIRG is currently looking for smart, motivated college students to work with us this term on our priority campaign: labeling GMO foods. Few issues are more profound or as fundamental as the food that we put into our bodies, as well as how we grow our food. With GMOs, we are changing the genetic makeup of our food supply without knowing enough about the potential consequences to our health, the environment, and our farmland. Labeling GMOs is a critical and achievable first step in putting the brakes on the nearly unregulated transformation of our food supply. Hours are negotiable, but typically students will put in 10-15 hours/week (unless requirements are different for course credit).

Interns working in our Grassroots Organizing Internship will work with our professional staff on a public interest issue—local, statewide, regional or federal—and then learn to develop a campaign, educate and mobilize the key constituencies, stakeholders, and the general public.

PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- Gain firsthand experience into the political and legislative process
- Sharpen your public speaking skills by testifying and speaking to the media
- Learn to develop and run an effective campaign to pass policy
- Gain leadership experience recruiting and working with volunteers
- Learn to build a coalition and work with coalition partners
- Learn key skills in nonprofit fundraising

The Grassroots Organizing Internship is a challenge: after some basic training, you’ll be tasked with building your own plan and carrying it out so reach specific campaign goals. You’ll learn new skills, work with fun people and ultimately have a huge impact on issues that you care about.

Qualifications:

- Good writing and communication skills
- Strong work ethic
- Familiarity and experience with Microsoft Office
- Enthusiasm and interest in public policy and advocacy
- Willingness to work hard and take initiative

Interested students should contact Sam Wilson-Moses at swilson-moses@pirg.org.