



Arizona Legislative Updates



It's time to contact your legislators!



February 17, 2023

Hi all!

It's official, nearly every good bill is dead -- SB1399 to fund transition in coal-impacted communities, SB1689 the Trees for Kids bill, SB1509 to require a climate resiliency plan, and SB1508/HB2244 to address environmental justice, along with a long list of positive water and energy bills never got a hearing. That means they are dead for this legislative session. Rather than hearing these bills to protect our air, water, and our health, the Arizona Legislature spent the week hearing multiple bills to restrict or eliminate early voting, impede clean energy or electric vehicles, and to provide funding for another way to vilify Mexican wolves. They also passed several bad transportation bills to limit investments in pedestrians and bikes and to prohibit reducing vehicle traffic. Look for an alert on those soon. Legislators did not, however, pass the transportation proposal to require Maricopa County to put forward a tax and to use 80 percent of it for freeways and none for light rail. Of course, they passed nothing good on that either.

All of these harmful bills are moving toward the floor, so it's time to contact your own legislators more often, in addition to doing the request to speak bills. This week, we are asking you to reach out on two anti-environmental bills.

The Arizona Legislature has discovered yet another way to be anti-environmental and it has its sights set on “ESG” or environmental, social, and governance investing. This is a backlash against a growing trend for financial institutions that make common-sense, business-driven decisions to respond to the systemic risks of climate change, which frequently means dollars flowing away from risky fossil fuel investments and into our clean energy economy.

HB2471 and SB1500 (government investments; plans; fiduciaries; products) are twin bills in the Arizona House and Arizona Senate. They require a fiduciary to take into account only pecuniary factors when evaluating an investment, so they cannot consider environmental, social, or governance factors. The bills also prescribe requirements and prohibitions relating to the State Treasurer's investments, again prohibiting consideration of anything social or environmental.

This is both unwise from a financial perspective, but also will result in our state helping to continue the harm that is contributing to poor air quality and climate change.

Send a message to your state senator and representatives and ask them to oppose HB2471 and SB1500 by clicking on the button below.

Take Action!

The only committees that are meeting next week are the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the Senate Committee on Director Nominations. See below for more details.

If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up.](#) To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign-up link.](#)

Please consider signing in on Request to Speak to oppose HB2633 and HB2644 and to support HB2806 and SB1396.

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link.](#)

For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Thank you for taking action this week!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

Monday, February 20th

Senate Committee on Director Nominations at 9:30 AM in SHR109
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

Executive Nominations

- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - Jennifer Ann Toth, Director*
- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - Elizabeth Ann Thorson, Director

House Committee on Appropriations at 9:30 AM in HHR1
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2633 Maricopa county transportation excise tax](#) (Livingston) includes numerous changes relative to county regional planning for transportation and calls for a new tax to go to the ballot in Maricopa County where 45 percent would go to freeways and highways, 35 percent to arterials, and a measly 20 percent for transit and it prohibits using any of the dollars for light rail extension. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2644 appropriation; wolf depredation investigator](#) (Cook: Smith) appropriates an unspecified amount to have a "peace officer" investigate the killing of livestock by wolves. Why would you have someone who knows nothing about wolves or livestock investigate this? **OPPOSE**
- [HB2763 appropriation; Mohave wash recharge basin](#) (Gillette: Biasiucci, Cook) appropriates just over \$4 million for this project. **MONITOR**
- [HB2806 state parks heritage fund; appropriation](#) (Carbone: Biasiucci, Blattman, et al.) makes a one time appropriation of \$10 million to the State Parks Heritage Fund. While we support this, we would rather see SB1224 adopted as it includes ongoing funding for the Heritage Fund from the lottery. **SUPPORT**

Tuesday, February 21st

No committee hearings, but they will have caucuses in the morning to go over bills.

Wednesday, February 22nd

House Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in HHR1
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- Same bills that are on Monday's agenda.

Thursday, February 23rd

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 8:30 AM in SHR109
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1392 appropriation; state park; Verde River](#) (Kerr) appropriates an undesignated amount for a state park at the headwaters of the Verde River. It is good to see legislators supporting parks again. **SUPPORT**
- [SB1469 appropriation; Page; water infrastructure projects](#) (Hatathlie) appropriates funding for an intake pipe, a pipeline, and expansion of wastewater treatment. **MONITOR**

