



"Skinny" Budget Fails, Session Stalls, and Happy Earth Day! Join us for an Earth Day Rally on Saturday!



April 22, 2022

Hi everyone!

Happy Earth Day! Celebrate the work for equity, justice, and the planet. Join us tomorrow at a rally and/or festival in Phoenix or at an Earth Day event near you.

This week, the Arizona House of Representatives tried to get a so-called "skinny budget" moving by holding a hearing on it. (A skinny budget is a minimum budget to keep agencies and programs going.) It is ridiculous to move a bare bones budget when there is a \$5 billion surplus to allocate and great need in many areas from education to those who are unhoused to environmental protection. We spoke against the budget due to its lack of funding for key water quality programs, the State Parks Heritage Fund, and its overall inadequacy relative to environmental protection. The main budget bill failed in the House Appropriations Committee 6-7 with two Republicans joining the Democrats in voting no. Now, they should sit down and develop a bi-partisan budget that addresses the needs of the state, but will they? I am skeptical.

Meanwhile, the Arizona Senate advanced a couple of harmful bills, including [HB2411 coal combustion residuals program](#). It passed in the Senate 16-12-2. HB2411 authorizes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to pursue the coal ash program from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We are concerned about ADEQ being too cozy

with the utilities on this program, which could risk protection of waters and public health.

[HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) was resurrected and passed in the Senate 17-11-2. It repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity and could negatively affect community choice aggregation of electricity which allows cities to purchase or generate electricity for their residents, as well as rooftop solar in Salt River Project (SRP) territory.

While it's a longshot, please call Governor Ducey at 602-542-4331 and ask him to veto both HB2411 and HB2101.

[HB2181 Now: game and fish; taking wolves](#) (Cook) passed out of the Senate Committee of the Whole, but still awaits final action in the Senate. It forbids the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from prohibiting any person from killing a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking a person (unnecessary as anyone can kill an animal if they feel threatened), livestock, or other domestic animal. While these provisions can't dictate what happens with wolves as they are endangered and US Fish and Wildlife sets the policies for wolves, these provisions send a bad message about killing wolves and will invite baiting of wolves. Even if you have already called or emailed on this bill, please do so again.

[Ask your senator to vote no on HB2181!](#)

One final note, we could not help but ask the question, since when is it a profile in courage to not do the wrong thing? You may have seen that [House Speaker Rusty Bowers was recognized with a John F Kennedy Profile in Courage award](#). It was because he resisted overturning our election results.

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#).

To find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers, [go here](#).

Next week, there are a few committee hearings in the Senate for confirmation of executive nominations.

Thank you for all that you do for Arizona!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURE

RALLY FOR CLIMATE, CARE, JOBS, AND JUSTICE



**APRIL 23
STATE CAPITOL
3PM-6PM
PHOENIX, AZ**



Join Us for an Earth Day Rally on April 23!

To mark Earth Day this year, Sierra Club is joining a nationwide mobilization to pressure our elected leaders to pass bold climate and clean energy investments in the US Senate. On Saturday, April 23, Arizonans are rallying for Climate, Care, Jobs, Justice here in Phoenix because now is the time to give it everything we've got.

Saturday, April 23, 2022
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Arizona State Capitol
[1700 W Washington St,](#)
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

[RSVP here.](#)



On Saturday, April 23, Chispa Arizona is hosting its second annual Earth Day celebration at

El Oso Park in West Phoenix. With music, activities for the whole family, food, and the official launch of their Clean & Green campaign, Chispa Arizona aims to celebrate and elevate the fight for environmental justice in a vibrant and safe space.

Chispa Arizona's Clean & Green Campaign seeks to improve Maricopa County's air quality through 100% free and electric public transportation by 2035 and reduce the urban heat island effect by increasing 20% of tree shade canopies and investing in complete streets in South & West Phoenix by 2030. Those who attend can sign up to be members of the organization or participate in their Clean & Green Campaign.

WHAT: Chispa Arizona's Earth Day Festival

WHEN: Saturday, April 23 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: El Oso Park | [3451 N 75th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85033](#)

[RSVP HERE](#)

