



Arizona Legislative Updates



Bad Transportation Bills Advance, One Bad Energy Bill Tanks.



.Phoenix pollution photo by Dick George

February 24, 2023

Hi all!

The only committees to meet this past week were Appropriations, Rules, and a special Senate Elections Committee meeting to again give election deniers a platform to promote a plethora of outlandish theories in their bid to thwart democracy. Next week, few committees are meeting as well as the House and Senate continue to move bills from one chamber to the other.

And a bit of good news from this week, [SB1502 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Carroll: Kerr, Griffin), which seeks to pre-empt the renewable energy standard or any subsequent clean energy standard at the Arizona Corporation Commission by codifying a weak standard, failed on Third Read in the Senate 14-15-1. It may come back for reconsideration, however, so we are keeping an eye on it.

Both HB2471 and SB1500 (government investments; plans; fiduciaries; products) are moving in the House and 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.

If you have not done so already, [please send a message to your state senator and representatives and ask them to oppose HB2471 and SB1500 by using this link.](#)

It is irresponsible to not include ways to reduce motor vehicle traffic and accommodate other transportation, including bicycles, in our planning and it runs contrary to our air quality plans, which include goals for reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Unfortunately, the Arizona Legislature is seeking to limit local government and the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) ability to plan for transit and bikes and reduce vehicle travel. Already, the Arizona Senate passed the following two bills along party lines (16-13-1) this past week.

- [SB1313 general plan; transportation; independent study](#) (Hoffman) prohibits general plans from including policies or projects that reduce vehicle traffic and removes element from the general plan regarding multimodal transportation.
- [SB1314 transportation system performance; ADOT](#) (Hoffman) changes performance factors to de-emphasize congestion relief and connecting with multi-modal transportation, plus prohibits adopting a motor vehicle travel mile reduction target or any other demand-management policy or project.

Still coming up are these two bills. Please ask your senator to oppose both of these bills by using the take action button below.

- [SB1697 highways; bicycle paths; walkways; prohibition](#) (Hoffman) prohibits the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) from planning, designing, or constructing bicycle paths or pedestrian walkways and accepting federal monies conditioned on the design and construction of a bicycle path or pedestrian walkway.
- [SCR1018 prohibit tax; monitoring; vehicle](#) (Hoffman) refers to the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit any fees based on vehicle miles traveled. As we reduce reliance on gasoline and gasoline-powered vehicles, gas tax revenues will decrease and other ways to fund road maintenance are needed such as looking at vehicle miles traveled.

Take Action!

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.](#)

There are no bills for Request to Speak yet posted for next week.

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

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

Many thanks for all that you do!

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 27th

House Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety at 11:00 AM in HHR1
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#):

- Discussion with Law Enforcement on the Crisis at the Border
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Harmful border wall photo by Erick Meza

2/24/23, 7:53 PM

Sierra Club Mail - 2023 Sierra Club Legislative Update #8



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter