



Arizona Legislative Updates



Speak up on lots of bad policies -- and a few good ones.

Request to Speak



March 1, 2024

Hi all!

What a week! Both the House and Senate moved a large number of bills through the floor process -- Committee of the Whole (COW) and then a Third Read (recorded vote) -- this week. Unfortunately, they neglected to vote down the many godawful water, lands, democracy, and immigration bills. They advanced a long list of referrals, meaning we could see a pretty crowded ballot if the other house gives its stamp of approval on them. These HCRs and SCRs do not go to the governor, they go to the secretary of state to be placed on the ballot for 2024.

Here are some quick takes on the bills.

[HB2376 federal government; land acquisition; consent](#) (Diaz: Hendrix) mandates approval by the state legislature for any land sale to the U.S. Government. This is a measure to block acquisitions to protect lands around the headwaters of rivers and springs, inholdings, and to otherwise protect blocks of public lands or areas with special habitat or cultural resources. It also would interfere with private property rights and is unconstitutional on several levels. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HB2377 federal lands; state management costs](#) (Diaz: Hendrix, McGarr) requires the Auditor General and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to complete a cost and revenue study of the annual costs to manage all federal public land in Arizona and all current revenue generated by federal lands. This measure does not include the indirect revenues and benefits for these public lands and would provide a skewed perspective on these important lands. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HB2788 United Nations; sustainable development; prohibition](#) (Jones: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al.) prohibiting Arizona or any of its political subdivisions from adopting the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations, which means they object to support for ending poverty, support for achieving food security, ensuring healthy lives, achieving gender equality, and protecting the planet and our ability to live on it. **It passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1**

[HCM2004 federal land acquisition; acreage return](#) (Smith: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al.) is a message to Congress and the President, asking them to enact legislation that requires the federal government to give to a state or county one acre of federal land for every acre the federal government reserves from the respective state or county. This is an anti-public lands protection message and would be totally unworkable -- even if it was a good idea. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HCM2005 federal lands; transfer to states](#) (Smith: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al.) asks Congress and the President to pass legislation to convey 30 percent of public lands to the states. Arizona has 9.2 million acres of state trust land that it cannot seem to manage properly -- it is not equipped to do so. Besides, it's pretty clear the intent with this is to have the land to exploit it to the maximum, including more mining, livestock grazing, and development. Where would the water come from? **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HCM2006 federal lands; natural resources; permission](#) (Griffin) asks Congress to enact legislation to prohibit the federal government from establishing, authorizing or declaring any new national monument, national park, wildlife refuge, conservation area, area of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic river, wilderness, wilderness characteristic area or any other federal reservation or special use designation in Arizona and from withdrawing or reserving any additional federal mineral, land, water or other national resource rights within Arizona's border. This is must more anti-conservation propaganda and would hinder protection of the Upper Verde, Great Bend of the Gila, and other areas, if Congress actually did it. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HCM2007 Grand Canyon Footprints monument; repeal](#) (Biasiucci: Carter, Chaplik, et al) asks the President to rescind or revoke the designation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and not to do any more monuments or special protections unless the legislature agrees to it. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HCM2008 urging Congress; Antiquities Act; repeal](#) (Gillette: Biasiucci, Cook, et al) asks the Congress and the President to repeal the Antiquities Act, which is the act that authorizes the President to establish national monuments such as the one listed above. Grand Canyon,

Petrified Forest, and Saguaro national parks were originally established as national monuments. **This passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[SB1195 public monies; prohibited uses](#) (Kern) is a wacky bill. It says no public entity -- this would include any agencies, universities, etc. -- cannot promote, advocate, or plan for or belong to an organization that does relating to reducing meat and dairy consumption, reducing or replacing vehicle travel with walking, biking, or public transit, reducing greenhouse gas emissions or tracking any information to determine consumption based emissions, limiting the increase of the average global temperature or producing a climate action plan, and a bunch more ridiculous provisions. In addition to being really wacky, if passed, it would tie the hands of agencies, cities, and universities relative to doing anything relative to climate change or doing things to clean up our air by reducing vehicle travel. It allows any eligible voter to sue over it. **It passed out of the Senate 16-12-2.**

[SCR1015 public monies; prohibited expenditures](#) (Kern) would put the provisions of SB1195 on the 2024 ballot. **It awaits a Third Read vote in the Senate.**

[HCR2040 public monies; prohibited expenditures](#) (Smith: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al.) would place a measure on the 2024 ballot to prohibit the state or any political subdivision, including universities, to do anything to help reduce global temperatures, have a climate action plan, participate in anything related to reducing meat consumption, etc. It wraps this up with a bow related to prohibiting "furthering Marxist ideologies." It is clearly intended to connect all of these issues and motivate voters who fear that there is a vast conspiracy to make this a better world. **It passed out of the House 31-28-0-0-1.**

[HCR2050 energy source; restriction; prohibition](#) (Griffin: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al) would put on the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit a city, town, county or any other political subdivision of the state from restricting the manufacture, use or sale of a device based on the energy source that is either used to power the device or consumed by the device. Device is not defined, but this is clearly intended to preclude any limits on fossil fuels, including gas. This will make it harder to protect our air, our water, our health, and our communities. **This awaits a Third Read vote in the House.**

[Take action against HCR2050 here.](#)

If you have not created an account on the [Request to Speak system](#), I encourage you to do so. If you need it activated, please let us know. We can help you out. Also, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting has a training and can also help you get signed up for this system. [Find more information here.](#)

This week, please sign in to [Oppose](#) HB2006, HB2404, HB2547, HB2646, HB2719, HB2852, SB1081, SB1289, and SCR1042. [Support](#) HB2007 and HB2482.

You can see more bills we are tracking [here](#).

You can find contact information for all legislators [here](#).

OPPOSE HCR 2050

AZ, any city, town, county, political subdivision, or public body would be **prohibited from restricting the manufacture, sale, or use of a device based on the energy source it uses.**

We can't limit products that use harmful energy!



We can't fight:

- **air pollution & its lethal health effects** caused by burning gas, propane, coal, wood, etc.
- **extreme weather & drought** caused by climate change
- **deforestation, land degradation, & biodiversity loss** caused by making biofuels and fossil fuels
- **environmental racism:** disproportionate negative impacts on people of color caused by environmentally destructive practices
- **the continual protection of the fossil fuel industry** funded by billions of taxpayer dollars

https://www.eesi.org/files/FactSheet_Fossil_Fuel_Subsidies_2024.pdf
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/mrs-energy-and-sustainability/article/social-and-economic-consequences-of-the-fossil-fuel-supply-chain/181CB4D021BA549E64D87B667D3FB987>

Graphic by Lyla Yango

For more information on these and other bills, reach out to Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Many thanks for using your voice to oppose and support the bills!

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, March 4th

House Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee is not meeting.

Senate Elections Committee at 2:00 PM in SHR1

[Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here.](#)

- [HB2404 voter registration cards; mailing limitation](#) (Gillette: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al) prohibits the county recorder from providing an initial or updated voter registration card to a person whose mailing address is outside of Arizona except for active military members and those for whom there is no Arizona mail address. This would exclude students. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2482 voter registration changes; text notice](#) (Parker B) requires county recorders to notify people either via text or in writing if they make any changes to their voting records and provide them with information on how they can check their record and make any changes needed. This is a good transparency measure and a service to voters. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2547 voting centers ban; precinct size](#) (Jones: Gillette, Kolodin, et al) removes the ability of the county board of supervisors (BOS) and the county recorder to establish voting centers and on-site early voting locations. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2590 voter registration database; updates; counties](#) (Dunn: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al) requires counties to participate in the statewide voter database and eliminates reference to the Help America Vote Act. **WATCH**
- [HB2719 bond elections; date; voter turnout](#) (Carbone: Biasiucci, Dunn, et al) requires a number of things relative to bond elections, including that there must at least be a 60 percent turnout for the bond to be issued. This would hamstring local government's ability to bond. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2851 elections; ballot chain of custody](#) (Heap: Biasiucci, Carter, et al) requires the county board of supervisors to provide a chain of custody record for every ballot printed for elections administered by the county that begins at the printing location and continues through delivery to the county recorder and voting location. **WATCH**
- [HB2852 voter registrations; organizations; prohibition](#) (Heap: Chaplik, Gillette, et al) prohibits the and any city, town, county or political subdivision from participating as a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). **OPPOSE**

Senate Finance and Commerce Committee at 2:00PMi in SHR109

[Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here.](#)

- [HB2006 real estate; acting in concert](#) (Griffin) weakens the provisions for demonstrating that someone is acting in concert to avoid being regulated as a subdivision and having to do things such as providing an assured or adequate water supply. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2007 subdivided lands; civil penalties](#) (Griffin) says a civil penalty for a subdivider or agent who engages in unlawful practice with respect to the sale or lease of subdivided

lands applies to each lot where a violation occurs rather than all of the lots combined. This is positive relative to enforcement. **SUPPORT**

- [HB2009 subdivisions; acting in concert](#) (Griffin) says it's unlawful for a person to attempt to avoid statutory requirements related to subdivision of lands by acting in concert to divide within a 10-year period a parcel of land or lease or sell six or more subdivision lots by using a series of owners or any other methods. **WATCH**
- [HB2101 land division; applicant submissions; review](#) (Griffin) requires an application to split a parcel of land to be approved if the applicant provides an answer to two questions regarding the applicant's ownership status of any property that is in the same tax parcel map or subdivision as the lots that are the subject of the application. **WATCH**
- [HB2129 improved lot or parcel; definition](#) (Griffin) modifies the definition of improved lot or parcel to include a condominium that is completely constructed within four years of the subdivider entering a contract for sale. **WATCH**

House Municipal Affairs and Public Safety at 2:00 PM in HHR1

[Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here.](#)

- [SCR1042 support; Texas; southern border](#) (Bolick: Bennett, Borrelli, et al) supports Texas's unlawful and harmful activities along its border with Mexico that have resulted in the deaths of immigrants. **OPPOSE**

Tuesday, March 5th

House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee at 2:00 PM in HHR1

[Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here.](#)

- [SB1081 exemption area; assured water supply](#) (Kerr: Carbone, Dunn) allows the Arizona Department of Water Resources to designate a portion of a city in the Phoenix Active Management Area (AMA) as having an assured water supply, when a city or town applies and when certain conditions are met. The portion designated must be within an irrigation and water conservation district, the provider must have contracted with the irrigation district for water for at least 100 years, and new groundwater can't be the basis for the assured water supply designation for this new area. This exemption is intended to help Buckeye developers demonstrate an assured water supply when they really don't have one. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1289 DWR; hydrology reports](#) (Hoffman) requires the Governor and the Department of Water Resources to provide a report on the hydrology of an active management area to the House and Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water committees 30 days before it is issued. There is no reason they should get it before the public. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1301 electricity producers; safeguards; electromagnetic pulse](#) (Farnsworth: Bolick, Borrelli, et al) requires electricity producers to take steps to secure a continuous supply of electricity regarding the threat of an electromagnetic pulse. **WATCH**
- [SB1345 Arizona power authority; continuation](#) (Kerr: Carroll, Gowan, et al.) continues this entity until 2032. **WATCH**

Thursday, March 7th

Senate Natural Resources, Energy, & Water Committee at 9:00 AM in SHR2

[Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here.](#)

- Presentations
 - Overview of Salt River Project
 - Kyle Tilghman, Director of Water Strategy
 - Mary Faulk, Director of Integrated System Planning and Support
 - Overview of the Irrigation Efficiency Fund, Dr. Ethan Orr
 - Overview of Dude Ranches, Presenter TBD
- [HB2012 department of forestry; continuation](#) (Griffin) continues this agency until 2032. **WATCH**
- [HB2024 lottery; on-farm irrigation efficiency fund](#) (Griffin) says that \$50 million of any remaining lottery dollars will be appropriated to this irrigation efficiency fund. This can

help reduce groundwater pumping, so is probably okay, although is this the best use of our limited dollars. **WATCH**

- [HB2055 underground water storage; permitting](#) (Dunn) changes the timeframes for the Arizona Department of Water Resources to deal with applications for water storage permits. **WATCH**
- [HB2097 gray water; definition; residential standards](#) (B Parker) includes requirements for the use of gray water. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality already has rules for gray water, so I am not sure why this is needed. **MONITOR**
- [HB2102 appropriation; Arizona geological survey](#) (Griffin) appropriates \$750,000 for the Arizona Geological Survey. **WATCH**
- [HB2646 power plants; public service corporations](#) (Bliss) includes unworkable requirements for closing fossil fuel power plants and requires the attorney general to be engaged in opposing any federal rules that expedite the closure of fossil fuels plants. Coal is uneconomic. This attempts to force utilities to run these plants and potentially lose money on them, forcing ratepayers to pay for it. **OPPOSE**



Roadrunner photo by Ricardo Small

