



Governor Ducey Doubles Down on Bad



April 1, 2022

Hi everyone!

Well, Governor Doug Ducey continues to drag Arizona into a gutter relative to democracy and human rights. This week he [signed a bill to hinder voting](#) that could result in a purge of thousands of voters, signed two bills to cause harm to trans youth, and signed a bill to implement a 15-week abortion ban, infringing on a basic right to privacy. There is already a legal challenge to the voting bill, [HB2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship](#). Thank you Mi Familia Vota!

Unfortunately, that is not the end of the bad voter bills. Remember they already referred a bad voter ID bill to the ballot and there are still bills to ban voting centers, prohibit automatic voter registration, and more in the mix.

In other news, [HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.) will be hanging over the session like a dark cloud as they are allowed to reconsider it at any time. HB2101 repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity. This bill 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. SRP brought this to the legislature without any kind of stakeholder process or thorough review of the impacts of the bill. **Call your senator and tell them to vote No on HB2101!**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) is now

ready for Senate Committee of the Whole. HB2055 allows private water companies such as EPCOR to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into the active management areas (AMAs) for development. This exacerbates creation of this groundwater depletion sacrifice zone and gives private water interests more control of water. The legislature should be placing additional limits on groundwater pumping not facilitating more.

[Send an email to your Senator. Ask them to Vote NO on HB2055!](#)

[HB2411 coal combustion residuals program](#) (Griffin) will be voted on in a Third Read in the Senate early next week. It authorizes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to seek assumption of the coal ash program from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Coal ash is toxic and can result in contamination of our waters if not adequately regulated. We are concerned that ADEQ is too cozy with the utilities and that it would not properly enforce this program, plus ADEQ is already not properly implementing some of the federal programs it already has.

[Email your Senator to oppose HB2411!](#)

This week, the US Fish and Wildlife Service came out with [the official count for Mexican gray wolves](#). The good news is the number of wolves is up. The bad news is that those numbers are not up nearly as high as they should be due to, among other things, unlawful killings. The last thing Mexican wolves need is a bill that encourages killing them. [HB2181 Now: game and fish; taking wolves](#) (Cook) 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. These latter provisions will invite baiting of wolves and sends a message that it is okay to kill these highly endangered animals.

[Send an email and tell your Senator to vote No on HB2181!](#)

Until the legislature gets to the budget or takes action in a special session, there will not be any [Request to Speak System](#) requests, but please use this time to sign up for it, if you have not. Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) will sign you up. Just [go to this link](#).

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

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

Many thanks for all that you do!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

The House and Senate Rules Committees will be meeting, but the rest of the committee hearings are done for the session, except for when they do the budget.



gray wolf photo courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife

