



Arizona Legislative Updates



Coming Up -- Environmental Day at the Capitol!



January 19, 2024

Hi all!

This week at the Arizona Legislature Senator Jake Hoffman continued his abuse of power, seeking to put his mark on every agency or commission that comes before his committee, recommending only two years of renewal for several commissions.

The prospects for positive water legislation are not looking good either as no good water bills have yet been scheduled for a hearing. Representative Gail Griffin, the chair of the House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee, did hear more of her bad water bills, including bills to skew groundwater modeling in the Phoenix Active Management Area. All of these bills were introduced for development interests. Interestingly enough, several were held as they failed to gain enough support to make it out of the committee. That is unusual and a bit of good news.

The committees did not get to a bunch of bills this week, so you will see them back on the agendas again this week.

If you have not created an account on the [Request to Speak system](#), I encourage you to do so. Just set it up and then come to the Capitol to activate it or have me do so for you. After that, you can sign in for and against bills each week and it does make a difference. **This week, please sign in to oppose SB1005, SB1008, SB1010, SB1011, SB1012, SB1013, SB1014, SB1052, SB1056, SB1066, SCR1002, and HB2002, HB2003, HB2123, HB2124, HB2244, HB2547, HCR2002, and HCR2032. Support HB2004.**

You can see more bills we are tracking [here](#). Note we are still populating the tracker.

THURSDAY, JAN 25TH

Environmental Day at the Arizona Capitol

- **DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS**
- **LISTEN TO EXPERTS ON THE STATUS OF OUR CLIMATE IN AZ**
- **MEET LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS**



[RSVP for Environmental Day Here](#)

**Environmental Day at the Capitol
Thursday, January 25th
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Wesley Bolin Plaza
Phoenix**

[RSVP for Environmental Day at the Capitol here.](#)

Last chance to rsvp. We will cut off registrations on Monday.

To prepare for Environmental Day, we are hosting informational webinars. Coming up next week on January 22nd at 6:00 PM is Bills, Bills, Bills! [RSVP here.](#)

We have recorded the webinars that have occurred already. You can view them here.

- Recording of the Volunteer Lobby Workshop is [here.](#)
- Recording "Start the Year Off Right with Water" [here.](#)
- Recording of Arizona Groundwater and the Arizona Groundwater Management Act [here.](#)
- Recording of Democracy and the Arizona Legislature [here.](#)
- Recording of Learning About Rainwater Harvesting [here.](#)

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

Many thanks for taking action!

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, January 22nd

Land, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs Committee at 2:00PM in HHR3

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

- [HB2191 property; criminal damage](#) (Cook: Bliss, Diaz, et al.) includes obstructing a passageway for livestock to access water in the definition of criminal damage. Would repairing a fence to limit cattle's access to rivers and riparian areas be included? We are watching this.
- [HB2244 misbranding; misrepresenting; food products](#) (Ngyuyen: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al.) prohibits intentionally misbranding a product that is not derived from livestock or poultry as meat or poultry. This is targeting veggie derived "meat" products. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2406 agricultural vaccinations; disclosure](#) (Gillette: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al.) allows a product that is made from aquaculture, poultry or livestock that has not received a messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccination, to carry an "mRNA free" label. This is a livestock anti-vaxer bill.
- [HCR2002 supporting Arizona's beef producers](#) (Smith: Shamp) includes a lot of misinformation about cattle and expresses the legislature's support for the industry. **OPPOSE**

Senate Transportation, Technology, & Missing Children Committee at 2:00 PM in SHR2

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

- [SB1010 vehicle mileage; tracking; tax; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Wadsack, Chaplik, et al) prohibits the state, a city, town, county or political subdivision of the state from considering or establishing any reduction goals or targets for vehicle miles traveled in developing any transportation or land-use planning or selecting transportation or transit

- projects. This is a repeat of a bill from last year that died in the House. It preempts cities from doing more to clean up the air and reduce climate emissions. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1011 general plan; transportation; independent study](#) (Hoffman: Wadsack, Heap, et al) prohibits cities from reducing system capacity for vehicles, meaning they could not take out a lane and provide a bike lane and pedestrian access. It also removes the bicycle element for general plans for larger cities and takes out provisions relating to multi-modal transportation from the growth element of a general plan. **OPPOSE**
 - [SB1012 transportation system performance; ADOT](#)(Hoffman: Wadsack, Heap, et al) de-emphasizes congestion management and promotes mobility as performance standards and includes specific provisions for how these and other factors are considered. **OPPOSE**
 - [SB1052 all-terrain vehicles; definition](#) (Carroll: Farnsworth, Cook) changes the definition of all-terrain vehicle to include heavier vehicles, increasing it from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds. Heavier vehicles do more damage and kick up more dust. **OPPOSE**
 - [SCR1002 prohibit tax; monitoring; vehicle mileage](#) (Hoffman: Kern, Petersen, et al) refers to the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit fees based on vehicle miles traveled, an alternative to gas tax or other fees to pay for roads. **OPPOSE**

Senate Elections Committee at 2:00 PM in SHR1

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

- [SB1008 voter registration events; posting](#) (Hoffman) requires the Secretary of State and county recorders to post a list of events where they do voter registration. This is a bill to facilitate intimidation. **OPPOSE**

Tuesday, January 23rd

House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee at 2:00 PM in House Hearing Room (HHR) 1

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

- [HB2002 power plants; transmission lines; definition](#) (Griffin) excludes switchyards and substations from review by the AZ Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee. This is one of the few entities that considers environmental factors relative to siting. We're concerned that they are adding even more exemptions to siting after exempting some lines in 2023. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2003 replacement lines; structures; commission hearings](#) (Griffin) allows utilities to replace structures on a transmission line without pursuing a new or amended certificate of environmental compatibility. This could mean replacing a low voltage pole with a much higher one and with significantly more impact. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2004 utilities; electronic filings; corporation commission](#) (Griffin) allows a utility to submit an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility for a power plant, transmission line, etc. in an electronic format. This would save a lot of paper! **SUPPORT**
- [HB2013 water improvements program; nonprofit corporations](#) (Griffin) includes non-profits for eligibility for these grants. I see no issues with this.
- [HB2096 tiny homes; construction; requirements; exemptions](#) (B Parker) restricts counties regarding building permits for single-family homes, accessory dwelling units and detached garages. **MONITOR**
- [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**
- [HB2123 wells; water measuring devices; prohibition](#) (Smith) prohibits the state or any political subdivisions from requiring water measuring devices on wells in areas where there are rivers. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2124 agricultural operations; water; protection; definition](#) (Smith) requires the court to award attorneys' fees for nuisance claim related to groundwater pumping. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2160 domestic water improvement districts; reviews](#) (Bliss) includes some financial accountability for these districts. This seems fine.

Wednesday, January 24th

Senate Committee on Government at 9:00 AM in SHR1

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

- [SB1005 public monies; ideology training; prohibition](#)(Hoffman: Wadsack, Chaplik, et al) prohibits public entities from requiring or spending public monies on a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) program. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1013 government investments; products; fiduciaries; plans](#) (Hoffman: Wadsack, Heap, et al) prohibits the state treasurer from considering any social or environmental factors when investing state dollars. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1014 business; discrimination prohibition; social criteria](#) (Hoffman: Wadsack, Chaplik, et al) prohibits a financial institution, insurer or credit reporting agency from considering political affiliation, or social credit, environmental, social, or governmental score or similar values-based or impact criteria in their decisions. This would include not being able to divest from fossil fuels. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1056 municipalities; counties; fee increases; vote](#) (Petersen: Bolick, Farnsworth, et al) requires a two-thirds vote for cities or counties to increase any fee or tax or increases in existing fees or taxes. **OPPOSE**

House Municipal Oversight & Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4

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

- [HB2547 voting centers ban; precinct size](#) (Jones: Gillette, Kolodin, et al.) prohibits boards of supervisors from establishing voting centers to accommodate additional voting for a specific election as needed. This will limit access to voting. **OPPOSE**
- [HCR2032 voting centers; precinct voting](#) (Jones: B Parker, Smith, et al.) refers the provisions of HB2547 to the ballot. **OPPOSE**

House Transportation & Infrastructure at 2:00 PM in HHR3

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

- [HB2573 use fuel dispenser labels; penalties](#) (Biasiucci) changes the penalty for violating use fuel tax labeling from \$100 per day to \$100. This looks like it is gutting enforcement of this provision.

Thursday, January 25th

Environmental Day at the Capitol!

Senate Natural Resources. Energy, Water Committee 1t 9:00 AM in SHR2.

Presentations

Driving Efficient Water Use in Industry, Supporting Arizona's Economic Growth - Jessica

Hancock, Director of Sustainability - Ecolab

WIFA Overview and Outlook - Chuck Podolak, Director, Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

- [SB1066 solar royalties fund; county residents](#) (Borrelli: Bennett, Bolick, et al.) imposes a 12.5 cents per kilowatt hour on solar panels. This is just intended to discourage solar. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1081 exemption area; assured water supply](#) (Kerr: Carbone, Dunn) says an area in the Phoenix Active Management Area that is also within an irrigation and water conservation district as deemed to have an assured water supply. This seems like another loophole.

Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:00 AM in SHR1

- [SB1073 obstruction highway; large event; classification](#) (Kavanagh) includes provisions relating to obstruction of a roadway.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Fiscal Accountability at 9:00 AM in HHR1

Presentations on HURF and Highway Construction

- Joint Legislative Budget Committee Staff
- Rural Transportation Advocacy Council
- Maricopa Association of Governments

