



# Arizona Legislative Updates



## A Billapalooza of Bad Policy at the Legislature

### **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.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 created by Community Catalyst Fellow, Lyla Yango .

February 23, 2024

Hi all!

The "Billapalooza" of bad policy advanced an incredible number of bad bills on multiple levels, including racist measures, prohibitions and preemptions on climate action, anti-democracy bills, and a plethora of harmful water bills. In addition to all of that, they advanced the bills to try and remove protections from public lands and objected to sustainability goals such as ending poverty.

[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 are objecting 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 by objecting to action on climate change and promoting water sustainability. **Passed House Committee of the Whole (COW) and awaits a Third Read vote.**

[HCR2040 public monies; prohibited expenditures](#) (Smith: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al.) was amended in House COW to add a prohibition on the floor to add prohibitions on any kind of affirmative action in hiring. HCR2040 refers to the ballot a measure 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 awaits a Third Read vote. Two comparable measures, SCR1015 and SB1195 are on the Senate COW calendar for Monday. Call your representatives and ask them to oppose HCR2040 and call your Senators and ask them to oppose SCR1015 and SB1195.**

Speaker Toma's anti-immigrant measure, HCR2060, which expands the provisions of the horribly racist SB1070, passed out of the House along party lines. You can read more about it [here](#). It sure would be nice if some of those businesses would speak out against this.

Please also ask your representatives to vote no on [HCR2050 energy source; restriction; prohibition](#) (Griffin: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al). It refers to 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. Thank you to Representative Oscar de los Santos for speaking up against this bad policy. You can hear his remarks and the ridiculous response to them [here](#).

**[Take action against HCR2050 here.](#)**

Next week, the House will start hearing Senate bills and the Senate will start hearing House bills. They will continue to vote on the hundreds of bills on the Floor of each house too.

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 SB1005, SB1013, SB1081, SB1147, SB1242, SB1289, SB1366, HB2013, HB2016, HB2017, HB2019, HB2027, HB2123, HB2124, and HB2244. Support HB2004.**

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

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

---

## Protect Public Lands and Waters



Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River photo by Jim Dublinski

---

Please take action to protect public lands!

The Arizona Legislature is again launching an attack on public lands and waters via a series of bills and memorials (messages to Congress and the President) asking that no more lands or waters be protected and that current protections be rescinded, and seeking to require legislative permission to protect any additional federal public land.

**[Please send a message to your Arizona Representatives asking them to vote NO on all of these bills!](#)**

The Arizona Legislature also has a large number of bills that weaken water protections. Please send your representatives a message to oppose bills that create more loopholes and that allow for more pumping of precious groundwater.

**[Ask your representatives to vote NO on harmful water bills.](#)**

---

Take Action to Protect Arizona Water!

---

**For more information on these and other bills, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto: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, February 26th

#### House Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee at 2:00 PM in HHR3

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

- [SB1147 livestock compensation; appropriation](#) (Kern: Wadsack, Heap) appropriates \$250,000 for the livestock compensation fund to reward irresponsible livestock interests when a wolf kills or harms any of their livestock. There are no rules to implement the program, limited transparency, and many conflicts in this program. Those who serve on the board also receive funding from the fund. **OPPOSE**

### Tuesday, February 27th

#### House Commerce Committee Meeting at 2:00 PM in HHR3

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

- [SB1366 regulatory sandbox; blockchain](#) (Bolick: Fernandez, Wilmeth) expands the definition of innovation to allow blockchain technology to use this regulatory sandbox, which is a way of regulating them lightly -- they can access financial programs without a license. That is the last thing we need with blockchain. **OPPOSE**

#### 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**

- [SB1242 ADWR; application; review; time frames](#) (Shope: Kerr) applies licensing time frames to applications for assured water supply. This type of time frame results in a rush to approve and frequently cuts out adequate public review. **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**

## Wednesday, February 28th

### House Government Committee at 10:00 AM in HHR3

[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**

## Thursday, February 29th

**Voting Rights Coalition mid-session check-in news conference.** It will be in the Rose Garden of the Arizona State Capitol Complex from 12pm-1pm MST on Thursday, February 29, 2024. We will be demanding the protection and expansion of voting rights during the 2024 AZ State Legislative Session! Remember, we cannot have a healthy environment without a healthy democracy.

[RSVP here](#)

ASL interpretation will be provided.

### Senate Natural Resources, Energy, & Water Committee at 1:00 PM in SHR2

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

#### Presentations

- The Challenges of the Sun Zia Energy Project on the San Pedro Valley and Surrounding Areas
  - Kai Staats – Resident of the San Pedro River Valley
  - John Welch – Director of Landscape and Site Preservation
- [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) authorizes nonprofits to operate these programs. It does not include any accountability with that, however. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2016 grandfathered right; subsequent AMA; extension](#) (Griffin) is an emergency measure, meaning it will become law immediately if the Governor signs it. The bill extends the deadline for a person to claim a grandfathered right to withdraw or receive and use groundwater in the Douglas active management area (AMA). This will further delay getting this AMA on track to limiting groundwater pumping. Why is a special delay needed for this AMA? We are opposed to this delay. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2017 assured water supply; commingling](#) (Griffin) requires the AZ Department of Water Resources to consider any water a developer brings for an assured water supply. This would allow more development in areas where development is clearly not sustainable. It is effectively creating another loophole. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2019 groundwater model; public inspection; challenge](#) (Griffin) requires that groundwater modeling be made available to the public and requires that ADWR

provide a way to challenge it. This is more backlash against ADWR for having the audacity to say there is not enough water to sustain development in certain areas.

### OPPOSE

- [HB2027 subsequent AMAs; assured water supply](#) (Griffin) exempts proposed subdivisions from the requirements of an ordinance that has been adopted by either a municipality or a county if the proposed subdivision is included within the boundaries of a subsequent active management area (AMA). This would affect Cochise county and would give subdivisions an automatic assured water supply if there was an adequate water supply. There is no good reason for this. This may be less of a problem if the definitions of adequate and assured are functionally the same, which they appear to be, but why put it in law? Why not allow the ADWR to finish the rules for this AMA and then see if there is a need for this? **OPPOSE**
- [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**
- [HB2184 brackish groundwater pilot program](#) (Smith: Kolodin) allocates \$2 million of the Pilot Program for a demonstration program in Arizona rather than Arizona's active management areas. **WATCH**
- [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**
- [HB2370 oxygenated fuel; federal approval; extension](#) (Griffin) extends the deadline by which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must approve the state implementation plan provision that allows for a gasoline blend other than an ethanol blend. The EPA can only approve this if it is consistent with the Clean Air Act and protecting public health. **WATCH**
- [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.

