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Sierra Club and the Climate Action Campaign call on Congress to stand strong for climate policies, outline impacts of Trump actions on Arizona

Leaders highlight petitions with more than 9,000 signatures calling on Congress to protect jobs, health, and the economy

Phoenix, AZ – On January 16th, Arizona leaders called on Congress to protect the state’s health, jobs, economy, and environment by standing up to attacks on key climate and clean energy initiatives. The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provide historic funding for climate and clean energy investments, and under the Trump Administration, these laws are at risk of being rolled back – jeopardizing significant economic, health, and climate progress achieved in recent years.

“Arizona has seen significant benefits from climate policies in recent years, including benefits for those most affected by the harmful impacts of climate change,” said **Sandy Bahr, director of Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter**. “According to the Department of Treasury, [‘more than 88,000 Arizona families saved more than \\$285 million in tax credits for clean energy and energy efficiency investments’](#) in 2023 as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, plus there have been significant direct investments in solar and storage with Tribal Nations, including the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. We simply cannot afford to go backwards on clean energy and action on climate change.”

Leaders also released three petitions demonstrating strong support for climate action in Arizona. One signed by 9,458 Arizonans, another endorsed by 39 Arizona-based groups and a third letter signed by both Representative Greg Stanton and Representative Yassamin Ansari. These petitions show that Arizonans stand firmly behind climate and health policies and against attacks on laws like the IRA.

"For Arizona's seniors, the daily struggle to manage expenses on fixed incomes has become increasingly challenging," said **Dora Vasquez, Executive Director, Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans**. "One in four seniors rely on Social Security for 90% of their income. The challenge also exists for low-income, working families. Cuts to funding through the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would worsen their financial strain. These programs serve as a crucial lifeline, helping to ease the burden of soaring energy costs and providing vital upgrades to ensure homes remain safe and comfortable, especially amid extreme heat and rising inflation."

President-elect Trump's plan to weaken and roll back climate investments and pollution protections would have major consequences for Arizonans. Investments from the IRA and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act have already led to more than [18,000 new clean energy jobs](#) in Arizona and thousands of dollars in energy-saving rebates and savings for individuals and families.

"As a registered nurse who has worked in schools and long-term care facilities, I've seen firsthand how climate change affects our most vulnerable populations," said **Paloma Greenwald, RN, BSN, MA, is a public health professional with 25 years of nursing experience**. "Rolling back climate policies isn't just an environmental issue—it's a public health crisis. Outdoor workers, elderly and our children are particularly susceptible to the health impacts of increased air pollution and extreme heat. We need to strengthen, not weaken, our commitment to clean air and a stable climate for the sake of all Arizonans' health and well-being. If we don't protect our climate policies, we will absolutely pay for worse health outcomes straight out of our own pockets."

Rolling back key climate legislation like the IRA would also negatively impact Arizonans' health. Arizona already struggles with air quality. Phoenix is ranked [5th worst](#) for high ozone days out of 228 metropolitan areas, according to the American Lung Association. The Inflation Reduction Act invests [\\$3 billion](#) to reduce air pollution at ports, including \$750 million benefiting communities – including seven of Arizona's counties – that do not meet national air quality standards. And attacks by the Trump

administration could mean the IRA's Justice40 initiatives like [funding](#) for air quality tracking in Arizona [may not come to fruition](#).

"Investing in clean and renewable energy in the desert Southwest isn't just smart economics—it's important for public health. Renewable energy is cheaper in the long run and spares our communities from the harmful emissions that come with carbon-based power" said **Will Humble, Executive Director of the Arizona Public Health Association**. "Sadly, our work is cut out for us over the next 4 years with a federal administration hostile to solar energy incentives and an Arizona Corporation Commission poised to rubber stamp rate increases and pull back on solar incentives. That doesn't mean we're giving up. Giving up isn't an option—because the moment we quit is the moment we guarantee failure. Let's stay bold and relentless and keep our focus on the long-game."

Data have long shown that the IRA rollbacks and others are deeply unpopular in Arizona. Polling shows that [78% of Arizona voters](#) support assistance for homeowners and renters to increase energy efficiency. [Seventy-seven](#) percent of Arizona voters support policies that encourage a transition to clean energy.

"The climate crisis disproportionately impacts young people, affecting their health, education, and future prospects," said **Ojas Sanghi, Tucson Co-Lead of the Arizona Youth Climate Coalition**. "Children and adolescents are more susceptible to climate-related health issues, including [heat-related illnesses](#), [respiratory problems due to air pollution](#), and [mental health challenges](#) such as anxiety and depression. Extreme weather events can disrupt education, leading to school closures and [hindering academic progress](#). In a world increasingly defined by climate disasters, strong climate action like the Inflation Reduction Act serve as the only sparks of hope. We must fight to ensure it stays in place."

Scaling back climate protections would mean Arizona continues to get hotter and drier. Since the early 1900s, average temperatures in Arizona have [risen](#) about 2°F. 2024 was the [hottest year on record](#) in Phoenix, with the city sweating through [113 consecutive days](#) with temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. These record-breaking temperatures [contributed](#) to more than 400 heat-related deaths in

the city. The data are clear: Rolling back climate policies would be a bad deal for Arizonans.

[The news conference can be viewed here.](#)

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The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet, and we amplify the power of our millions of members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world. The Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter has long been involved in advocating for clean energy and climate action.