



A Budget for Billionaires -- Protects Data Centers, Taxes Clean Energy



Floor of the Arizona House

May 1, 2026

Hi Friends!

Happy May Day! Today is a good day to remember we need to protect workers **and** the environment -- it is not either or as some people advocate. The big news

at the Legislature this week was that the Republicans in the House passed a budget that is most certainly not going to be signed by the Governor. Who knows if it will even pass the Senate? There is not a lot in there for environmental programs and unfortunately it keeps the tax breaks for data centers, which amounted to \$38 million last year, and raises taxes on renewables by eliminating some tax incentives, including one for rooftop solar.

In other news, as we mentioned previously, Representative Marshall resigned his seat in the House, so he could be appointed as county recorder in Navajo County. It is unclear at this time if he can even legally do that as his term was not up in the legislature before he was appointed and sworn in as county recorder. You can [read more about that here](#). Very soon after Marshall resigned, the board appointed former lawmaker Sylvia Allen to fill the vacant seat. When she served previously, she was on the fringe right, but in today's legislature, she is pretty mainstream with the GOP. Allen did once state that the Earth was just 6,000 years old in response to testimony on a uranium bill of all things, has made disparaging comments about people of color, and is extremely anti-environmental -- she does not believe in public lands. [Read more about her here](#).

Most of the bills we have been asking you to take action on are still in play, so please keep up the pressure. If you have already sent an email, consider calling, especially on the bill below. We really need to try and get at least 21 no votes on this one, but would love to stop it altogether.

[HB2873 NOW: municipalities; referendum petitions; withdrawal](#) allows anyone who files a referendum petition with a city or town to withdraw the petition in writing at any time before it qualifies for the ballot. There are numerous problems with this, but the biggest one is allowing one person or one entity to disenfranchise every person who signed the petitions -- people who in good faith signed to have an opportunity to vote on the issue -- would now not have an opportunity to do so merely because an entity or person did not plan well or got cold feet.

This bill is clearly intended to benefit Beale Infrastructure to clear the path for them to construct data centers in Marana, and squarely aimed at disenfranchising the people of Marana, ignoring their desire to have a say on a harmful data center.

[Tell your representatives to reject this anti-democracy measure and to vote NO on HB2873.](#)

Say No to HB2873!

Please keep up the pressure on legislators to vote NO on [SCR1001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Bolick) and [HCR2001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Kolodin: Chaplik, Heap, et al). They refer identical measures to the ballot to limit early voting and require all voters (even those voting mail ballots) to "show valid government-issued proof of identity." Currently, our signatures on our early ballots are used for identification and have proven to be an effective means of confirming the identity of the voter. Counties would also have to immediately tabulate mail-in ballots onsite. These bills would give the legislature the authority to shut down early voting too! These measures are clearly intended to hinder voting and there has been little thought

given to actual implementation, including providing on-site tabulation equipment. The referral adds some troubling language about the Legislature adopting additional laws to expedite elections.

[Ask your legislators to vote NO on SCR1001/HCR2001!](#)

Protect Early Voting - Take Action!

Don't let them forget that they should absolutely vote no on [SB1280 Public monies; Mexican wolf; Prohibition](#) (Farnsworth). SB1280 would prohibit the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from transporting Mexican gray wolf puppies into Arizona and also from spending any money for transporting wolf puppies into the state. This is also known as the Cruella de Vil bill. This is the last anti-wolf bill still in the mix.

[Tell your representatives to vote no on SB1280!](#)

Take Action to Oppose SB1280!

Tell Legislators to say no to allowing a New York Hedge Fund to steal rural Arizona's water!

[HB2758 McMullen Valley; eligible entities; groundwater](#) (Griffin: Blackman) is among the worst water legislation moving through the process. The bill allows private water companies and a New York hedge fund, Water Asset Management, to engage in the interbasin transfer of groundwater from the McMullen Valley in La Paz County to elsewhere in La Paz County or to an active management area - basically the Phoenix area. Learn more about the small communities fighting this bill [here](#).

[Please ask your Senator to Vote NO on HB2758!](#)

Protect Rural Arizona Water!

It's time to kill that last bad solar bill!

[HB2975 state lands; solar score; maps](#) (Heap: Marshall) prohibits the State Land Department from using solar score maps or other similar types of evaluation of state trust lands for its appropriateness for solar energy generation. This removes transparency and is contrary to the good planning. It is intended to be punitive of solar as it then goes on to require mapping for mining and housing. Why mining and not solar?

[Please ask your senator to vote no on HB2975!](#)

Speak up for Solar!

[Find our 2026 bill tracker here.](#)

Below is information on two upcoming events.

Thank you for continuing to take action!

Sandy Bahr
Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

If you have any questions, reach out to sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Join Us Tomorrow for Writing for Change!

WRITING FOR CHANGE

HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY AT THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

**SATURDAY
MAY 2
2026**

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
LOCATION UPON RSVP

APS is proposing a 14% rate increase. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Join us to learn more, write your testimony and share how rising energy costs are impacting you and your family.

REGISTER NOW
bit.ly/writing-for-change

LUNCH PROVIDED

Have you ever wanted to share your comments, your story, but didn't know how to write it? We can help you! 📄 ✍️

With Arizona Public Service (APS) proposing a 14% rate hike, it's more important than ever to make our voices heard at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

Join us for Writing for Change: How to Share Your Story at the Arizona Corporation Commission - a hands-on, interactive workshop where you'll learn how to write and share an effective and powerful public testimony at the ACC. 🏛️

May 2nd from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
South Mountain Community College

[RSVP Here](#)

Protect Wild Roadless Forests!

**PROTECT THE ROADLESS AREA
CONSERVATION RULE!**

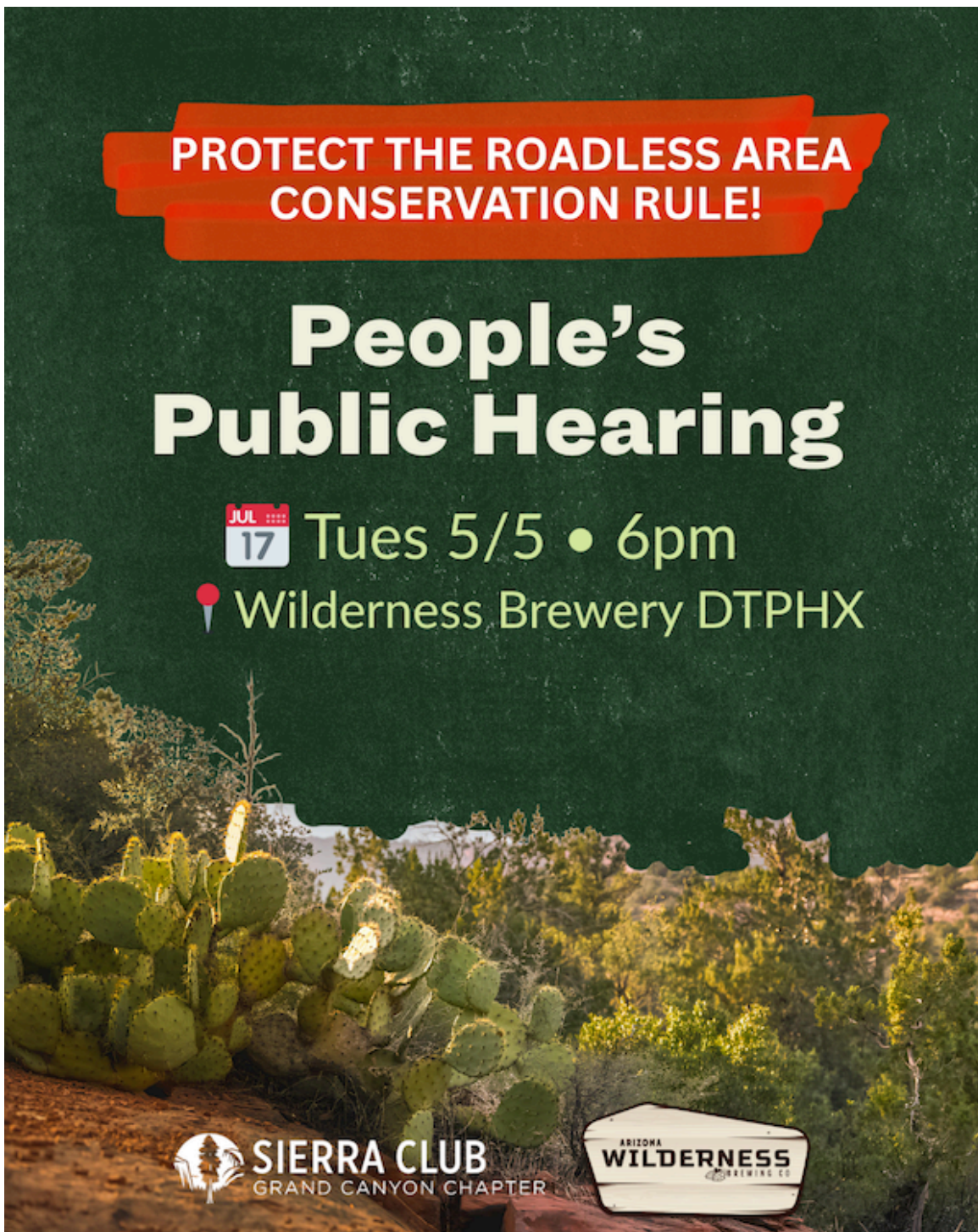
People's Public Hearing



Tues 5/5 • 6pm



Wilderness Brewery DTPHX



SIERRA CLUB
GRAND CANYON CHAPTER



Join us for a People's Public Hearing on the proposal by the Trump Administration to repeal the rule that protects the areas in our forests that do not have roads. These areas protect water, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and the opportunity for quiet recreation. The Trump administration is working to strip protections from nearly 45 million acres of roadless forests – including more than one million acres in Arizona forests. These wild, unfragmented lands have been off-limits to road construction, logging, and other development since 2001.

5/4/26, 12:24 PM

Sierra Club Mail - 2026 Sierra Club Arizona Legislative Update #17

Speak up for our forests -- orally, in writing, craft a postcard, or all. There will be speakers, poem writing (+a mini lesson to help you craft yours!) and of course enjoy AZ Wilderness Brewery. Participants will get a protect roadless areas t-shirt.

May 5th at 6PM
Wilderness Brewing DTPHX

[RSVP so we know how many people to expect.](#)

Roadless RSVP



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter