



Anti-Democracy, Anti-Clean Energy, Bad Neighbor, and Weak Water Bills - Act Now to Stop them



April 2, 2021

Hi everyone!

This week a large number of strike-everything amendments were added to bills in both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and several bad ideas were also resurrected, such as HB2248.

[HB2248 \(corporation commission; electric generation resources\)](#) infringes on the powers of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and seeks to derail clean energy rules, policies, and other important actions by the ACC. It broadly preempts the Commission from directly or indirectly regulating carbon emissions. That is just bad public policy, especially at a time when we should be doing everything possible to limit these emissions to address the climate crisis.

[Please send a message to your Senator today and ask them to support clean energy and oppose HB2248.](#)

The "Bad Neighbor" bill, [SB1448 \(agricultural operations; nuisance; costs; damages\)](#), passed out of the House with all Republicans and three Democrats voting yes. It increases the burden on those who would bring a nuisance action against an agricultural operation such as these large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). A nuisance action is one of the few ways for neighbors to these facilities accountable. CAFOs are smelly, attract vermin, and are bad for animals and people alike, so they make very bad neighbors.

This bill will likely go for a final vote in the Senate on Tuesday, so please act now. [Ask your Senator to vote No on SB1448.](#)

[HB2691 \(now: ADEQ; water quality program; WOTUS\)](#) will go to the Senate Floor on Monday. While it would be helpful to have a water quality protection program for Arizona, this bill does not do the trick. In fact, it leaves most of Arizona's waters unprotected. This is especially concerning at a time when we should be doing more, not less, to protect them. Ongoing drought, the climate crisis, and development, among other activities, threaten our state's waters. A key problem with HB2691 is that it prohibits protecting most of our state's waters – more than 90 percent of our waters are ephemeral or intermittent. It also fails to recognize the cultural significance of waters for Tribal nations.

[Ask your State Senator to vote NO on HB2691!](#)

The purge of the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) also reappeared this week, but then was retained on the Committee of the Whole calendar. It will likely be back next week.

[SB1485 \(permanent early voting list; eligibility\)](#) removes voters from the PEVL if they do not vote an early ballot in two consecutive primary and general elections. This backdoor way of actually eliminating the PEVL will result in a purge of the list and is just another way to suppress votes.

[Email and call your two State Representatives and ask them to Vote NO on SB1485.](#)

Please also call and/or email on the following issues. Note that you can use the email link message to find your legislators' phone numbers, provided your

address is in the system or after you enter it or you can look up your legislators [using this link](#).

- [Send your two State Representatives a message and ask them to oppose SB1713, which creates new barriers to early voting.](#)
- [Stop attacks on ballot measures in the House. Send your State Representatives a message.](#)
- [Stop the anti-ballot measure bills in the Senate. Send your State Senator a message.](#)

[HB2309 \(violent; disorderly assembly; public order\)](#) has still not appeared on a Rules calendar, so we may have more time to stop it. This bill targets protesters by increasing the penalties of lower level offenses to a felony if part of a gathering that the police have deemed a violent disorderly assembly. This will chill actions by protesters and have a disproportionate impact on people of color.

Call your senator, ask them to vote No on HB2309. You can find their numbers [here](#).

[SB1156 \(now: solid waste; advanced recycling facilities\)](#) seeks to exempt from waste regulations facilities using the processes defined as “advanced recycling.” The processes include gasification and pyrolysis, as a means to turn plastics to fuel, among other things. This will mean they are more lightly regulated and also includes them eligible for grants from the Recycling Fund monies. We should not be subsidizing plastics to fuel or regulating it more lightly. The fuel produced pollutes a great deal, similar to diesel, and also emits more carbon into the air. We should instead invest in programs to reduce plastic, especially single-use plastics.

Please call your representatives and ask them to oppose this special deal for the plastics industry and bad deal for our health and the climate. You can find their numbers [here](#).

Stop Attacks on Voting Rights!

There are no Request to Speak actions this week.

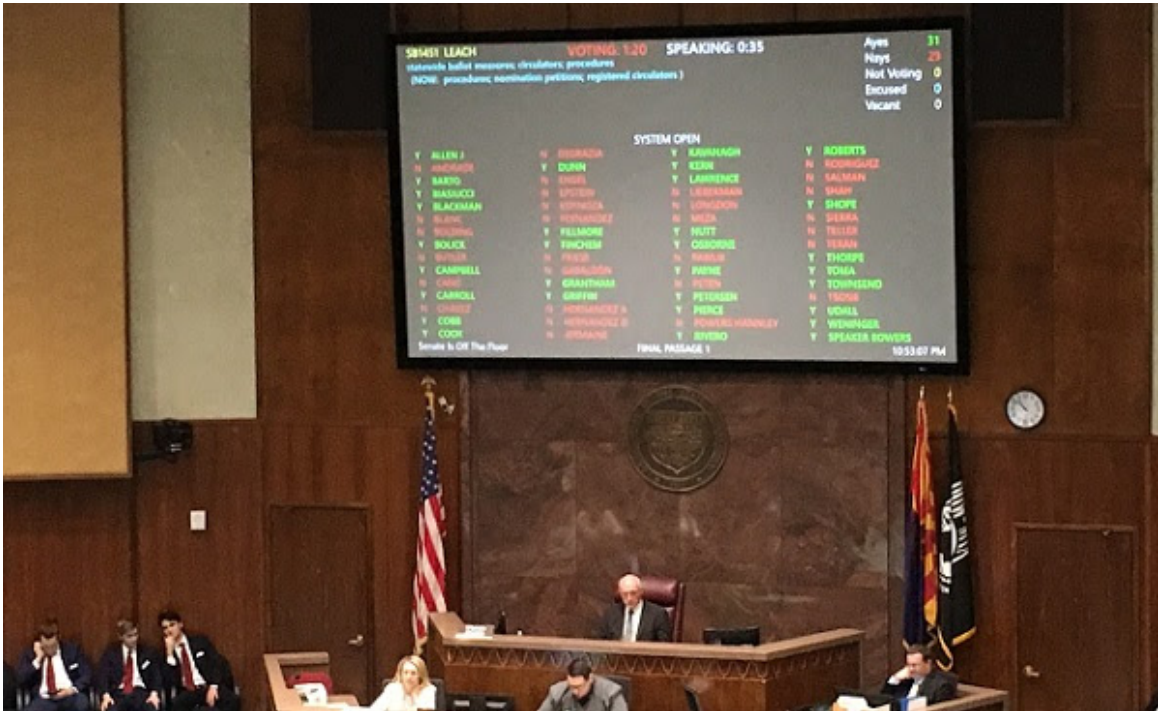
[You can see bills we are tracking here.](#)

If you don't know who your legislators are, just use this [Find My Legislator link](#) and enter your address to find your district, then go to [Members](#) to see who represents your district. You will find their phone numbers and email addresses there as well.

Thank you so much for all that you do!



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up This Week at the Arizona Legislature

This week it will be all Floor action, Rules Committee, and caucusing about bills. You can watch the Floor action in the House and Senate by using this [link](#).



Poppies on public lands west of Phoenix

