

## Support Clean Energy!



January 22, 2021

Hi everyone!

The Arizona Legislature is certainly making it difficult to participate in committee hearings this session during COVID. At least one committee is only allowing in-person testimony and all of the others require that you sign in with the Request to Speak system (which must be activated in person if you do not already have an account) and to email a separate request to the committee 24 hours in advance of the committee meeting. These are real barriers to participation. This past week, they voted out of committee several anti-democracy bills to hinder voting and ballot measures and also some bills to weaken water laws. We hope to stop some of those as they come to the floor.

Due to quorum issues and an illness, neither of the anti-clean energy bills were heard this week, so there is still time to take action. Be sure to sign in on Request to Speak to oppose them again and also use the button below to send a message to your own legislators.

[HB2248 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Griffin) and [SB1175 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Kerr: Gowan, Gray, et al.) target the clean energy rules being considered by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), rules that have gone through more than two years of development and vetting, enjoy strong public support, and that will save ratepayers dollars, reduce water use and pollution, and bolster Arizona's economy. The bills prohibit action by the ACC without express legislative authority, so this is also a big power grab by the Arizona Legislature.

Please sign in on the [Request to Speak](#) system to oppose both **HB2248** and **SB1175**. You do not have to speak, but you can register your opposition to the bills while they are in committee. You

can also use it to request to speak, but this year must also request that separately.

If you had an account previously, it is still active. You can request a new password if you forgot it. If you do not have an account, go ahead and set one up, but we will have to help you activate it as it requires going to the Capitol. Contact me directly about that.

For people who would like to speak remotely in committee hearings, I have included instructions on how to sign up to speak in the Senate and the House right after the Committee information below.

You can also separately email members of the House and Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committees and ask them to oppose the bills.

**For HB2248, contact the following:**

[Rep Burges](#)  
[Rep Cano](#)  
[Rep Carroll](#)  
[Rep Dalessandro](#)  
[Rep Dunn](#)  
[Rep Finchem](#)  
[Rep Griffin, Chair](#)  
[Rep Lieberman](#)  
[Rep Parker](#)  
[Rep Stahl Hamilton](#)

**For SB1175 contact the following:**

[Senator Engel](#)  
[Senator Gowan](#)  
[Senator Gray](#)  
[Senator Kerr, Chair](#)  
[Senator Mendez](#)  
[Senator Otondo](#)  
[Senator Rogers](#)  
[Senator Shope](#)  
[Senator Steele](#)

**This week, please sign in on [Request to Speak](#) to oppose the following bills HB2248, HB2372, HR2003, SB1175, SB1222, SB1224, SB1274, and SCR1011.**

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Act on Clean Energy

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[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.

**Don't forget to sign up for Environmental Day and upcoming webinar towards the end of this message!**

Thank you for taking action. Be well and take care.



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



## Coming Up This Week at the Arizona Legislature

### Monday, January 25th

#### [Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee at 2:00PM - View by going here.](#)

- [HB2188 pest management; unlicensed business activities](#) (Pratt) includes an educational program on pest management licensing and registration of pesticides at the Arizona Department of Agriculture as well penalties for those who apply pesticides commercially without a license. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2246 G&F; private lands; trespassing](#) (Griffin) clarifies that property owners can prohibit hunting or guiding on their property by posting it. **MONITOR**
- [HB2372 agricultural operations; nuisance; liability](#) (Dunn) significantly increases the requirements for bringing a nuisance action against an agricultural operation -- must bring the action within one year of the facility beginning operation and the person must be the property owner -- and it preempts local ordinances relative to regulation of these facilities as a nuisance. This is likely in response to complaints and actions against large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that have significant smell, noise, and excessive lighting. **OPPOSE .**
- [HR2003 forests; proper management](#) (Griffin) contains revisionist history relative to our national forests, basically blaming environmental groups for certain unhealthy forest conditions. **OPPOSE.**

### Tuesday, January 26th

#### [House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM](#)

- [HB2040 dam safety study committee](#) (Griffin) establishes a dam safety study committee that is a little light on dam safety experts. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2248 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Griffin) See above. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2388 water supply development fund; appropriation](#) (Griffin) appropriates \$50 million from the state general fund for water supply development grants and it broadens who is eligible for the grants. I believe it would include private water companies. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2390 law clinic; stream adjudications; appropriation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) appropriates \$500,000 to the University of Arizona and allows their law clinic to represent those in the general stream adjudication process if their adjusted gross income is 500% below the federal poverty level. **MONITOR.**

**Wednesday January 27th****Senate Committee on Finance at 9:00 AM**

- [SB1177 forest products; processing; tax credit](#) (Kerr: Gowan, Gray, et al.) provides tax credits for industry that use "qualifying forest products," which is intended to focus on forest thinning, but also can include standing dead or down trees, which provide important habitat for wildlife and can help keep soil intact postfire. We would like to see it amended to focus more on thinning. **MONITOR.**

**House Committee on Government & Elections at 9:00 AM**

- [HB2039 elections; hand counts; five percent](#) (Griffin) increases the hand count threshold from two to five percent. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2181 write-ins; residency; filing deadline](#) (Kavanagh) requires a write-in candidate to be a resident of jurisdiction for which they are running for at least 120 days. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2361 write-ins; early ballots; processing](#) (Kavanagh: Cook, Nutt) requires a write-in candidate to file to be candidate earlier. **MONITOR.**

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM**

- [SB1056 energy; water; savings accounts](#) (Gray) limits to 25 years the term of a financial agreement for energy and water savings measures with cities, towns, and counties. It also includes a definition for energy cost savings. I think this is probably overall positive, providing more flexibility and opportunities. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1147 water banking; storage credits; subcontractors](#) (Kerr) allows for distribution of long-term water storage credits directly to entities that contract with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1175 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Kerr: Gowan, Gray, et al.) See above. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1222 conservation districts; water; invasive vegetation](#) (Kerr) gives more power and responsibilities to Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD), which are made up almost entirely of agricultural interests. Nearly every year there is a bill to authorize more activities and/or give them more funding. As they are not accountable to larger public and have no public trust responsibilities, we are concerned with this direction. More and more livestock grazing is being proposed on public lands at the expense of wildlife. The bill does not include any provisions to ensure healthy habitats or consider impacts on wildlife. Mesquite, a native species, for example, provide important habitat for many birds but are often the target of these eradication efforts. The bill expands the current program to include eradication of native vegetation. We are concerned this will be used to eliminate mesquite and other native species in order to grow cattle when the cattle contribute to the landscape change in the first place, and denuding the land of the grasses and allowing for other plants that are less susceptible to livestock grazing. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1224 agricultural operations; nuisance liability](#) (Kerr) is the same as HB2372 above. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1274 assured water supply; subdivision](#) (Shope) limits additional hydrologic review of water providers in the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA) and allows them to merely retain their most recent designation. It also allows developers to increase the number of housing units associated with their assured water supply certificates. This is irresponsible as it does not address changes in the AMA, the impacts of drought and over-allocated water supplies, and the need to further conserve water, plus facilitates clearly unsustainable development. Ever since it was determined that the Pinal AMA had major issues with assured water supplies, there have been attempts to rejigger the numbers to make it appear that there really is a 100 year assured water supply for developments in the AMA. This is the latest and should be opposed. We need responsible and sustainable water policies. **OPPOSE.**

- [SCR1011 supporting hardrock mining](#) (Kerr) is a public relations piece for mining and fails to mention any of the impacts. **OPPOSE**.

\*In accordance with Senate Rule 26(A), any person desiring to be heard concerning legislation remotely shall email that request to ([SenateNREW@azleg.gov](mailto:SenateNREW@azleg.gov)) at least 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, in advance of committee. The request must state the bill the person desires to present arguments upon, and whom the person represents. Timely requests will receive a response that includes meeting access information to participate in the committee remotely.

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## 2021 Virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol and Workshops

Environmental Day  
February 3, 2021  
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Participate for all or part of it.

[RSVP for Environmental Day](#)

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On Environmental Day, join hundreds of advocates from throughout Arizona in virtual meetings with state legislators to promote environmental protection and justice, climate action, lands and wildlife conservation, flowing rivers, democracy, and more, as well as to lobby on specific bills.

- **January 26<sup>th</sup> Noon – Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund: Arizona Heritage Alliance – [RSVP here.](#)**
- **January 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – Volunteer Lobby Workshop: Sandy Bahr – [RSVP here.](#)**
- **January 29<sup>th</sup> Noon – Democracy: Voting and Ballot Measure Rights: LUCHA, AZ Advocacy Network, Progress Arizona - [RSVP here.](#)**
- **January 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm – Issues briefing on Environmental Day bills: Sandy Bahr – [RSVP here.](#)**

Our keynote speaker on Environmental Day is Tucson Mayor, Regina Romero. Don't miss it!

Environmental Day at the Capitol is a coalition event involving more than 20 organizations and schools. [RSVP here.](#)

**For more information and to get involved, contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 999-5790 or [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**



1/22/2021

Sierra Club Mail - Sierra Club 2021 Legislative Update #4



Tinajas Altas photo by Cyndi Tuell



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Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter