



Thank you for participating in Virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol!



February 5, 2021

Hi everyone!

Thank you to all who helped make our first ever Virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol a success. I am sorry we did not get appointments with all of the legislators, but we will follow up on those appointments that were cancelled and with those legislators who were unresponsive. If you missed it, you can view much of it via Sierra Club's Facebook page. [Here is a link to the opening and to Mayor Romero's remarks.](#)

[A key highlight was students from three high schools hosting a news conference, reading their love letters to the Earth](#), and Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, Arizona Faith Network, and the Franciscan Renewal Center's video on [Love Letters to the Earth](#). If you are interested in writing and reading your own love letter to the Earth, contact Doug Bland at doug.bland@azipl.org. They will be sharing more of the letters in April leading up to Earth Day.

[HB2248 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Griffin) and [SB1175 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Kerr: Gowan, Gray, et al.), the bills that target the clean energy rules being considered by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), are on the Rules Committee agendas for Monday, so it looks like they are doing a big push to get these through. **Please keep up the pressure and contact your own legislators, even if you have previously done so, and ask them to oppose both bills.** [Use this link to send a message to your senator and two representatives](#) or use the button below. We also encourage you to make phone calls. You can find the legislators' numbers [here](#).

And please call your Senator and ask them to oppose [SB1069 permanent early voting list; eligibility](#) (Ugenti-Rita). It removes voters from the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) if they do not vote an early ballot in two consecutive primary and general elections. This is a purge of the list and another way to suppress votes.

Please sign in on the [Request to Speak \(RTS\)](#) system to oppose HB2358, HB2372, HB2373, HB2394, HB2691, HB2737, HCR2016, SB1106, SB1224, SB1334, SB1409, SB1459, SB1487, SB1497, SB1531, SCR1024, and SCR1034.

Please sign in to support SB1009 and SCR1046.

If you had an account with [RTS](#) 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 or reach out to [Civic Engagement Beyond Voting](#).

For people who would like to speak remotely in committee hearings, please contact me and I will help you submit your specific request.

Act on Clean Energy

[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 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, February 8th

[Committee on Land, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM](#)

- [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.**

[Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM.](#)

- [SB1063 administrative review of agency decisions](#) (Mesnard) is a bill we are watching to see if it is amended to remove exemptions for the Arizona Corporation Commission relative to how agency appeals are handled. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1104 campaign finance; contributions; disclosures; itemization](#) (Mesnard) requires a candidate committee, political action committee or political party campaign finance report to include contributions from out-of-state individuals and to report every individual in-state contributor of \$50 or less after the committee receives a combined total of \$5,000 from in-state contributors. This is a response to the success of small donor fundraising. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1106 voting residency; intent to remain](#) (Mesnard) makes it a class 6 felony for someone to register another person to vote solely for the purpose

of voting in an election and without intent to stay. This is ridiculous. People may plan to move in six months, but still should be able to vote in an election here and the person registering them should be considered a felon.

OPPOSE.

- [SB1107 redistricting; petition signatures; 2022 candidates](#) (Mesnard) requires the Secretary of State to accept nomination papers and petitions from candidates for election in 2022 using legislative and congressional districts used in the 2020 elections, designated by the redistricting plan adopted by the Independent Redistricting Commission in 2021 or designated as the 2022 redistricting plan by a court. This seems fine.
- [SB1241 voting equipment; ballots; receipt](#) (Townsend) requires an electronic voting system to provide a paper receipt to the voter at the time the voter's ballot is received for tabulation. This seems fine. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1299 incorporation; urbanized areas](#) (Shope) makes numerous changes to incorporation requirements. **MONITOR,**
- [SB1487 private attorney retention; municipalities; counties](#) (Leach) limits local government relative to private attorney retention on a contingency fee basis, including a determination of the necessity to enter into a contingency fee contract, contingency fee limitations and reporting requirements. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1492 election law amendments](#) (Shope) makes various changes to statutory requirements for election ballots, dates, deadlines, nomination petitions, etc. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1497 ballot measures; proposition 105; disclosure](#) (Ugenti-Rita) requires the official ballot and the publicity pamphlet to include a Proposition 105 (relates to limits on the legislature's ability to change ballot measures, commonly called the Voter Protection Act) notice. It is inappropriate to have this on the ballot. We do not put any other notices on the actual ballot. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1531 petition signatures; description; invalidity](#) (Mesnard: Leach) voids the signature of any initiative or referendum petition signer that signs the petition without either hearing or reading the initiative or referendum description printed on the petition. This is another ridiculous requirement. What if you actually had read the measure. Why should you have to read or hear the description? **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1601 municipal ordinances; penalties; notice](#) (Gowan) prohibits a city or town from imposing a fine for violating an ordinance for the removal of rubbish, trash, weeds or other accumulations from a property until statutorily required notice has been delivered and the appeal timeline has elapsed. **MONITOR.**
- [SCR1034 voter protection act; court determinations](#) (Leach) allows the Legislature to amend, supersede or appropriate or divert funds created by an initiative or referendum measure approved by the voters if the measure is found to be illegal or unconstitutional by the courts. This would allow the legislature to throw out an entire measure, even if a small part was successfully challenged. **OPPOSE.**

[Senate Committee on Transportation and Technology at 2:00 PM](#)

- [SB1009 state vehicle fleet; electric vehicles](#) (Steele) requires state fleets to be electric vehicles starting in 2022. **SUPPORT.**
- [SB1460 ADOT; state motor vehicle fleet](#) (Shope) transfers the state vehicle fleet from the Arizona Department of Administration to the Arizona Department of Transportation. The fleet has to be low emissions vehicles. **MONITOR.**

Tuesday, February 9th**House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM**

- [HB2614 remediated water; groundwater; use](#) (Osborne: Blackman, Bowers, et al.) requires groundwater that is pumped as part of a clean up to be put to beneficial use in the same active management area by a city or town or by an irrigator. This is likely okay, but I want to look at it a little more closely. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2677 agricultural best management practices; general permit](#) (Griffin) relates to agricultural best management practices to limit particulates. This is a rather weak program. It does clarify that a city or county can implement additional measures if they are part of an air quality implementation plan. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2691 groundwater permits; technical correction](#) (Griffin). This bill will have a strike-everything amendment on it relating to a water quality program. Without strengthening amendments, it would be unacceptable as it leaves nearly all ephemeral waters unprotected. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2737 corporation commission actions; investigation](#) (Parker: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) allows any legislator to petition the attorney general to review any Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) decision that the legislator believes is beyond its constitutional mandate and allow the AG to force a review by the Supreme Court. If the Court disagrees with the ACC, the budget of the ACC would automatically be reduced by 10% for a year. This is clearly intended to chill actions by the ACC due to the threat of lost budget. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2758 emissions inspection; collectible vehicles; dealers](#) (Pingarelli: Biasiucci, Burges, et al.) specifies that vehicles that purchase collectible vehicle insurance are exempt from emissions. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2778 stream adjudications; cooperative extension; appropriation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) allows a university law clinic to offer pro bono assistance in the adjudication process to those with low incomes. **MONITOR.**

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM

- [SB1405 appropriation; transportation construction projects; I-10](#) (Leach) appropriates \$5 million to Marana for transportation projects around I-10. I am not sure why Marana is getting special treatment here. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1461 appropriation; widening I-10](#) (Shope; Cook, Pratt, et al.) appropriates \$50 million for widening I-10 between Chandler and Casa Grande. This would be preferable to having I-11, but why not some money for rail instead? **MONITOR.**

Wednesday February 7th**House Committee on Government & Elections at 8:30 AM**

- [HB2302 election lawsuits; settlements; approvals](#) (Blackman) says the secretary of state cannot settle a lawsuit that affects a county recorder without the approval of the county recorder. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2308 recall petitions and elections; revisions](#) (Kavanagh) makes several changes to the form of recall petitions. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2358 voter registration update; address change](#) (Kavanagh: Bolick, Chaplik, et al.) mandates, rather than allows, the county recorder to use the national change of address system of the USPS and cancel registrations

that have changed counties. This will purge a lot of otherwise eligible voters. **OPPOSE.**

- [HB2373 voter registration groups; forms; identifiers](#) (Dunn) says that anyone who requests or receives 10 or more voter registration forms to place their unique identifier on each form. This will likely cause issues for those who register people more casually such as at high schools and in their neighborhood. It is unnecessary and punitive as it will make the registration invalid if someone forgets to include the identifier. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2378 ranked choice voting; presidential preference](#) (Dunn) establishes ranked choice voting for presidential elections. There are definitely merits to ranked choice voting and this is worth taking a closer look at.
- [HB2529 early ballots; address; return](#) (Dunn) requires an early ballot to have instructions if it gets sent to a person in error. This seems fine.
- [HB2590 day of racial healing; observed](#) (Bolding: Jermaine, Rodriguez) establishes the third Tuesday in January as national day of racial healing.
- [HB2723 campaign finance; reports; contribution amount](#) (Kavanaugh) raises the amount from \$50 to \$200 before you have to report information about the donor. That seems kind of high.
- [HB2792 early ballots; request required](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) prohibits mailing early ballots to those who have not requested them. Hmmm. I am not sure why this is needed.
- [HB2793 voter registration; request required](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) only allows government to register people to vote if they affirmatively request it. This is just weird.
- [HCR2016 initiatives; supermajority vote requirement](#) (Dunn: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) refers to the ballot a measure to require a 60 percent vote to approve any ballot measure. **OPPOSE.**
- [HCR2023 elections; state authority; infringement; opposition](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) is a resolution that declares opposition to any federal control of elections.

[House Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM](#)

- [HB2552 criminal damage; monuments; memorial; statues](#) (Kavanaugh: Barton, Bolick, et al.) adds defacing, damaging or tampering with a public or private monument, memorial or statue to the activities that constitute aggravated criminal damage. I think we should oppose this as it is clearly intended to go after those who seek to remove racist monuments and statues.
- [HB2618 public nuisance; noise; evidence](#) (Parker: Payne, Townsend) requires a recording by an officer for someone to bring a nuisance claim for noise. **MONITOR.**

[Senate Committee on Finance at 9:00 AM](#)

- SCR1024 Initiatives; tax increases; vote requirement (Petersen) has a strike everything amendment on supermajority vote requirement; initiatives. The amendment is not posted, but we will certainly oppose any supermajority requirements for ballot measures. **OPPOSE.**

[House Committee on Ways and Means at 9:00 AM](#)

- [HB2153 renewable energy storage equipment; valuation](#) (Dunn: Cobb, Cook) provides an exemption from state and municipal taxes for machinery and equipment used for energy storage for later electrical use. It would be

helpful if this was limited to equipment that stores renewable energy generated electricity. **MONITOR.**

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

- Arizona State land Department Board of Appeals - Norman E Chappell, Keri B Silvyn
- Arizona Power Authority Commission - James R Sweeney and Kimberly Ann Owens
- Arizona Water Banking Authority - Joseph Olsen, Eric Braun, Mark Clark
- SB1159 technical correction; electromagnetic pulse preparedness (Kerr) has a strike everything amendment on state land; auctions. It is not posted yet.
- [SB1224 agricultural operations; nuisance; liability](#) (Kerr) is the same as HB2372. **OPPOSE.**
- [SCR1046 Arizona's outdoors; recreation; supporting](#) (Engel: Alston, Bowie, et al.) is a memorial recognizing the value of outdoor recreation. **SUPPORT.**

[House Committee on Appropriations upon adjournment of Floor](#)

- [HB2394 appropriation; north-south corridor study](#) (Cook) appropriates \$5 million for a tier 2 north-south transportation study in Pinal County. More money for freeways. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2577 appropriation; water supply study](#) (Griffin: Bowers) is a bill to appropriate dollars for the study of water supplies. It currently has a blank amount. **MONITOR.**

[House Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM](#)

- [SB1334 fireworks; aerial devices](#) (Gowan) expands the fireworks allowed to include the multiple tube aerial fireworks. **OPPOSE.**

[Thursday, February 11th](#)

[Senate Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM](#)

- [SB1409 zoning ordinances; property rights; costs](#) (Petersen) requires cities to jump through additional hoops to adopt ordinances including specifically producing an impact statement relative to "property rights." This is to chill actions that help to protect our communities. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1459 agency decisions; administrative reviews](#) (Petersen) seeks to treat the Arizona Corporation Commission, a constitutionally established branch of government, the same as other agencies when it comes to appeals of decisions to the courts. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1502 public nuisance; noise; evidence](#) (Townsend) is similar to HB2618 above. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1652 appropriations; attorney general; investigation; litigation](#) (Livingston) appropriates \$1 million to the attorney general for investigation of anti trust and election integrity. **MONITOR.**

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Sunset at Saguaro National Park photo by Scott Mittelsteadt



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter