



SIERRA CLUB

NEBRASKA CHAPTER

Week of January 30 to Feb 5					
Date	Bill	Introducer	Position	Method	Purpose
2/2/21	324	Brandt	Support	In Person	Permits sale of shares in beef/pork animals.
2/3/21		Nat Res	Opposition	In Person	Reappointment to Environmental Trust Board
2/3/21	507	Bostelman	Support	In Person	Prohibit manufacture of ethanol from pesticide treated corn
2/5/21	11	Blood	Support	Letter	Expands option for permanent absentee ballot
2/3/21	110	Pansang Brooks	Support	Comments	Establishes limits of force for police
2/2/21	156	Wayne	Support	Letter (Clyde)	Inland Port
2/2/21	228	Morfeld	Support	Letter	Change terms for PACE and allow refinancing
2/2/21	265	Blood	Support	Letter	Change reporting requirements for PACE.
2/4/21	305	Erdman	Oppose	Letter	Sec'y of G&P will be appointed by governor, not Commissioners
2/5/21	346	Wishart	Support	Letter	Generous tax credit for entities installing Electric fueling stations
2/3/21	409	Brewer	Neutral	In Person	Supported relocation of R-line but pointed out deficiencies in the bill
2/3/21	513	Brewer	Oppose	Letter	Change terms for Public Power Boards and require customer relationship
2/4/21	562	Erdman	Oppose	Letter	Move G&P HQ to Sidney, NE
2/5/21	596	Albrecht	Oppose	Comments	Further tax credits for ethanol
2/3/21	615	Erdman	Oppose	Letter	Elect Game and Parks Commissioners
2/4/21	668	Hughes	Oppose	Letter	Move G&P HQ to county with less than 10,000 residents and 200 miles from Lincoln
2/4/21		Nat Res	Opposition	Letter	Reappointment to Environmental Trust Board
Other Activities					
2/1/21		Energy Call			
2/2/21		Call with Judy			
2/5/21		Call with Senator Cavanaugh			
2/5/21		Weekly Call			

Four of our priority bills will be in hearings this week! We need your help to speak up on climate change, renewable energy, and more! Please see the information below and contact your legislators on those bills you are most concerned about—whether just one, or all four, of these priority bills.

Information about how to contact state senators is below.

1. LB 266 (John McCollister) Adopt the Renewable Energy Standards Act (SUPPORT)

Hearing is Thursday, Feb. 11th in the Natural Resources Committee.

Deadline for submission of a position letter is Wednesday, Feb. 10th by noon.

LB 266 seeks to establish a Renewable Energy Standard to promote the development and utilization of clean and renewable energy production. The bill encourages development of renewable electric power to encourage innovation and seeks to make Nebraska a leader in the transition to renewable energy. It calls upon the unique public power status of the state to facilitate municipal and rural transitions, and states that one premier obligation of the transition is to safeguard the environment, and provide disaster resilience. The bill also calls for the state to be at net-zero by 2050. The bill does include language stating that nuclear energy is also a renewable, which [which we do not support](#), and you can mention that in your note.

2. LB 483 (John Cavanaugh) Climate Change Study and Action Plan (SUPPORT)

Hearing is Thursday, Feb. 11th in the Natural Resources Committee.

The deadline for submission of a position letter is Wednesday, Feb. 10th by noon.

LB 483 would direct the University of Nebraska to develop an evidence-based, data-driven strategic action plan to provide methods for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change. Senator Cavanaugh's bill is a broad instruction to the University about updating the 2014 study and developing a plan of action to address the issues of climate change. The study should document the potential impact of further climate-change induced damage to agriculture, industry, individuals, public health, forestry, soil, water, and energy. The bill lays out a detailed proposal of what to include and gives the University concrete instructions about gathering expertise and input. The bill also allocates \$250,000 to pay for the study. This bill also mentions nuclear power as a renewable source, [which we do not support](#), but the overall plan is well designed and thoughtful and would provide invaluable information.

3. LB 650 (Mike Flood) NE Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act (OPPOSE)

Hearing is Thursday, Feb. 11th in the Natural Resources Committee.

The deadline for submission of a position letter is Wednesday, Feb. 10th by noon.

LB 650 establishes Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act. The bill is strongly connected to the ethanol industry and other business entities that have a significant carbon footprint. The Act intends to solve the problem of excess carbon dioxide by injecting it into geological formations deep below the surface of the ground.

The Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the bill because sequestration of CO2 does not solve the problems associated with the use of carbon-based fuel and this act would seem to postpone the inevitable day when we reach zero-based CO2.

4. LB 482 (John Cavanaugh) Change Provisions relating to Use of Public Resources by Public Officials and Public Employees (SUPPORT)

Hearing is Wednesday, February 10th in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The deadline for submission of a position letter is Tuesday, Feb 9th by noon.

LB 482 would prohibit the use of public resources for the purpose of contribution to a candidate or campaign committee. The background on this bill is that a group of public utilities have paid dues to an entity to which they all belong. That entity, in turn, used dollars from those dues to support specific candidates who were running for seats on the Nebraska Public Power Board. What that means is that the public utilities used their ratepayer's receipts to fund the election of a slate of candidates. Nothing prohibits board members or employees of those utilities from making these contributions from their own funds, but using ratepayer dollars is inappropriate. LB 482 will prohibit this in the future.

How to Submit Your Comments (two options)

Please put your comments in your own words!

POSITION LETTERS (preferred) can be submitted by e-mail and **will be included in the official hearing record.** These letters **MUST** be sent to the official committee email (address below). **The letter must be received by noon the day prior to the hearing.** It must include your Name, Address, Position on the bill (For, Against, Neutral), and finally a Request that your letter be included in the Public Record.

Send Position Letters to:

Natural Resources Committee: natpl@leg.ne.gov

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee: govpl@leg.ne.gov

OR

SUBMIT COMMENTS ONLINE: This new approach permits you to make comments on a bill at any time. **These comments will not be part of the record** but will be available for senators and staff to review. To submit your comments, find the particular bill you wish to submit comments on at the Legislature's homepage: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/> You will see a box which states "submit comments on LB__." A box on the webpage for that particular bill will open and you may submit up to 300 words about that bill.

ALSO, we encourage you to send a copy of your letter to your own senator, with a short personal note asking them to support or oppose these bills if they get to the floor. You want your senator to know where their constituents stand on the issues. Find your senator at https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php

Thank you for speaking up to protect Nebraska's environment! Your comments will make a difference!

Sincerely,

NE Sierra Club Legislative Committee

David Corbin, Chair dcorbin@cox.net

Al Davis, NE Sierra Club Lobbyist oloranch@GMAIL.COM