



# Arizona Legislative Updates



*"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." ~ Ida B. Wells-Barnett*

**March 23, 2018**

Dear Conservation Friends,

This was the last week for hearing bills in most committees. House and Senate Appropriations will hear bills next week and any executive appointments can also still be considered in committee in the Senate. What that often means, and certainly was true this week, is it was strike-everything amendment madness, a tried and true way to resurrect bad ideas or introduce bad bills with little or no time for public scrutiny.

There was a striker to make agricultural pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers exempt from sales tax, encouraging the spraying of more poisons into our environment and on to our food. I would love to see a bill supporting organic farmers for a change.



*Credit: Kim Crumbo*

Another striker, promoted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, seeks to vilify a nonprofit with whom the Commission disagrees. This was a new low for the Commission and something we have not seen before at the Legislature. Who will be next?

The APS drafted strike-everything amendment on HB2005 advanced through both houses, again along party lines, and is on the Governor's desk. The bill is pretty clearly unconstitutional due to its infringement on the constitutional authority of the Arizona Corporation Commission and per the Senate Rules Attorney. Still, they ignored her and passed it along. **HB2005 public service corporations; penalties** seeks to undermine and effectively preempt enforcement of the *Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona* initiative (50% renewable energy by 2030). Please contact Governor Ducey today and ask him to veto HB2005.

**TAKE  
ACTION !**

**Ask Governor Ducey to veto anti-clean energy, unconstitutional bill promoted by APS!**

Keep up the pressure on the bills to give the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality authority to pursue control of an important Clean Water Act permitting program and a key Safe Drinking Water Act program. These bills could open the door for weakening these important water protections.

**TAKE  
ACTION !**

**Ask your representatives to vote NO on SB1493 and SB1494 to protect Arizona waters.**

**Updates on other Bills:**

- **HB2003 coal mining; TPT repeal** (Finchem) provides a big subsidy to Peabody Energy coal via a tax break. This passed out of Senate Finance 4-3 and along party lines with Republicans voting yes and Democrats voting no. It awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.
- **SB1208 ATVs; Off-highway vehicles** , a bill to allow heavier and wider ATVs in Arizona, awaits a Third Read in the House. We are concerned about more damage to vegetation, waters, wildlife, and air quality. Let your representatives know you oppose this bill as well.
- **HB2060 aggregate mined land reclamation; variances** (Bowers) is on the Governor's desk. It gives the state mine inspector the authority to allow operators of sand and gravel operations as well as exploratory mining operations to vary from any of the state requirements for operations or reclamation if the mine inspector determines there is no threat to public safety or that it is not inconsistent with the objectives of the reclamation plan. Considering how weak the provisions for reclamation are currently, it is of concern that the mine inspector would be given such latitude to grant the companies a variance. The bill also includes no notice requirements for neighbors. This places a lot of trust in the mining companies and in the state mine inspector, neither of which have earned it.
- **HB2512 water program amendments** (Bowers) is a water omnibus bill that contains a number of provisions, but the most harmful aspect would weaken adequacy requirements for areas such as Cochise County and could cause further harm to the San Pedro River. This passed out of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water (NREW) Committee by a 4-3-1 vote and awaits action by the Rules Committee.
- **HB2553 adequate water supply; county review** (Bowers) is a stand-alone bill for weakening the adequacy requirements for areas such as Cochise County and further threatening the San Pedro River. This also passed out of the NREW Committee 4-3-1.
- **SB1515 adequate water supply; county review** (Griffin) is the same as HB2553. It passed out of the House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee by a 7-3 vote. It awaits action in House Rules.
- **SCM1008 endangered species act; urging Congress** (Griffin: Clodfelter) asks Congress to pass the Saving America's Endangered Species Act, which is misnamed. The Saving America's Endangered Species Act does nothing to save America's endangered species, but what it does do is put at risk many other species. It passed out of EENR 5-3-0-2.
- **HCR2007 clean elections; unlawful contributions; rulemaking** (Coleman: Shope) refers to the ballot a measure to limit clean elections candidates' ability to participate in coordinated campaigns. This passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee 4-3 and awaits action in Senate Rules.
- **SCR1034 independent redistricting commission; membership** (Yarbrough: Griffin, Kavanagh, et al.) had a **strike-everything amendment on the same subject** that increases the membership of the Independent Redistricting Commission, requires that the smallest and largest districts have a two percent or less difference in population, and makes several other changes. There is great concern from the Navajo Nation and other minority communities that the requirement for the two percent or less difference will result in a dilution of their vote. For now, we are still opposed to this due to those concerns. It passed out of House Government Committee 4-3-0-1 and heads next to the Rules Committee.
- **SB1143 veterinary medical examining board; continuation** (Griffin) had a strike-everything amendment on it **TPT; crop production tools** . This striker eliminates sales tax for agricultural pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, and more. Why give a tax break for massive chemical use? It passed out of the House Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee 6-2-0-1. It awaits action by the Rules Committee.

If you have any questions on other bills in the process, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Please sign in on the Request to Speak system to oppose HCR2017 and HB2106. Email me for details on these. I will read the strikers as soon as they are posted.

---

If you already have an account on the [Request to Speak](#) system, sign on, then select "New Request," enter the bill number in the space that says "Search phrase," The bill should come up below. Select "Add Request." You will then be able to enter whether you are for or against the bill and whether or not you wish to speak. Remember, you can only use the [Request to Speak](#) system when a bill is on an active committee agenda.

If don't have an account for the Request to Speak system, I encourage you to set one up. Just select [Request to Speak](#), then select "Create An Account." You will need to go to the Capitol to activate it or you can contact me and I will help you activate it.

If you no longer want to receive these updates, just zap me an email.

Thank you for speaking up for clean energy and clean water!

Warm regards,



Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter  
(602) 253-8633  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona>

---

## Coming up at the Arizona Legislature next week!

### Monday, March 26th

#### Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 P.M. in Senate Hearing Room 109

- **Executive Nominations**
  - Arizona State Parks Board
    - Dale L Larsen
    - John R. Sefton
    - Terri M. Palmberg
  - Arizona Water Banking Authority
    - Mark Clark



*credit: Mark Coryell*

---

### Tuesday, March 27th

#### Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 P.M. in Senate Hearing Room 109

- **HB2106 corporation commission; internet protocol services** (Weninger) will have a strike everything amendment on **international trade; authority; transportation**. This striker is not yet posted, but is likely to set up a taxing district for transportation.
- **HCR2017 supporting nuclear energy** (Leach) will have a strike-everything amendment on **renewable energy standards; corporation commission**. This striker is not yet posted, but it is likely to be something to undercut the proposed clean energy initiative.

---

### Wednesday, March 28th

#### House Committee on Appropriations at 1:00 P.M. in House Hearing Room 1

- **SB1140 state land department; continuation** (Griffin) continues the state land department through 2026. This may have a striker offered on it.
  - This agenda has numerous bills that may have strike-everything amendments added to them.
-

---

To call your legislators, go to [Member Roster](#) and find their phone numbers. If you're outside the Phoenix area, you can call your legislators' offices at [1-800-352-8404](#). In the Phoenix area call [602-926-3559](#) (Senate) or [602-926-4221](#) (House) and ask to connect with your legislators.

---

Interested in signing up for these updates? **If you do not currently receive our weekly legislative updates, use this form to sign up.** These emails are packed with information about current happenings, proposed bills that affect Arizona's environment, and ways for you to get involved.

---

### **Please Support Our Work!**

Our work depends on the support of people like you. Please consider making a donation to further our efforts at the Arizona Legislature to protect Arizona's wild lands, wildlife, people, and places. Thank you so much!



---

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

facebook