



Please be well and look out for those most vulnerable.



March 13, 2020

Hi Everyone!

Be well and take care! As you know, the COVID-19 situation is evolving quickly. Sierra Club is increasing our organizational response out of an abundance of caution for our communities. This means that we are suspending all travel as of Monday, March 16th and urging people to not make future reservations for 60 days. We are also suspending all volunteer and staff in-person meetings between now and April 12th. Sierra Club is ramping down in-person activities, but I will continue to do what I can to keep you informed and will be monitoring activities at the Capitol.

Also, the Arizona Legislature is closing off access to the House and Senate galleries and limiting public testimony at committee hearings. Sadly, they are continuing to meet and will advance some bad bills. It is unclear how many as some members are saying they will not come to the legislature.

The Governor signed HB2749 to keep information about endangered species confidential, sadly. I expect it to be applied to some big development projects. Thank you for contacting him about a veto. It is too bad he is not listening.

If you are signed up for the [Request to Speak](#) system, please sign in against HB2054, HB2084, HB2454, HB2589, HB2674, HCM2009, SB1449, and SCR1044.

Please sign in to support HB2455, HB2493, HB2497, and SB1350.



Ask Your Senator to Protect Direct Democracy

[SCR1020 initiatives; public safety; health; amendments](#) (Leach) refers to the ballot a measure to allow the Legislature to amend an initiative or referendum that has been approved by the voters if the measure relates to public health or safety. The Legislature would no longer have to further the purpose of the voter-approved measure and would merely need a simple majority of each house to amend it. This would effectively gut the Voter Protection Act provisions in the Arizona Constitution and allow the Legislature to defund or eviscerate important public health and safety measures, including those related to environmental protection.

Ask your senator to vote NO on SCR1020 using the take action button below!

Take Action!

To see the other bills we are tracking, use [this link for our Legislative Tracker](#), which you can also find on our website.

If you are not sure who your legislators are, just use this [Find My Legislator link](#) and enter your address. To contact legislators, go to [Members](#). You will find their phone numbers and email addresses.

If you are not signed up for the Request to Speak and would like to be, here is how you get started.

Go to [Request to Speak](#) to set up an account, just select "Create An Account" and fill out the information. You will need to go to the Capitol or to the Tucson legislative offices to activate it or you can contact me and I will help you activate it.

Thank you for taking action to protect our democracy!



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming up this week at the Legislature

Monday, March 16th

Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 P.M. in Caucus Room 1

- [HB2054 GRRC; petition to request review](#) (Biasiucci: Bolick) allows a person to petition the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) to review Citizens Clean Elections Commission's (CCEC) existing practices, policies, and rules, if they think it doesn't meet certain requirements. This is an effort to rein in the CCEC from doing its job. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2084 international boundary wall; building permits](#) (Petersen: Barto, Biasiucci, et al.) prohibits a city, town, or county from requiring that a nonprofit corporation or property owner obtain a building or any kind of construction permit prior to constructing an international boundary wall, and further establishes a presumption that the state will grant permission for construction of an international boundary wall on state land. This latter provision may be unconstitutional, but the bill is just more xenophobia from the Arizona Legislature. **OPPOSE .**
- [HB2454 archaeology advisory commission; membership](#) (Griffin) adds two members to this commission, one from the livestock industry and one from a Natural Resource Conservation District, which is clearly intended to weaken recommendations from this Commission, especially those related to protection of cultural resources that involve livestock interests. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2455 air quality omnibus](#) (Griffin) moves the Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit program from the counties to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. This is a plus as the program had not been operational in recent years and it helps people fix their cars so they do not pollute as much. Vehicles no longer have to be 12 years or older to qualify for assistance. It reduces the co-pay, raises the cap on costs for ineligibility, and allows ADEQ to focus research on emissions rather than on alternative fuels. **SUPPORT.**

- [HB2497 lawn equipment emissions reduction program](#) (Dunn: Biasiucci, Finchem, et al.) allows for a \$100 voucher for those who replace gasoline mowers with a manual mower. Currently, the voucher is only available for electric mowers. **SUPPORT.**
- [HB2674 water; substitute acreage](#) (Griffin: Bowers, Dunn, et al.) creates an end-around to the severance and transfer process by allowing a person who owns land that may be irrigated to retire that land and irrigate other land, if land currently being irrigated was damaged by floods or if the land has impediments to efficient irrigation. If the severance and transfer process is broken, it should be fixed for everyone, not for a few narrow interests. **OPPOSE.**

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 P.M. in SHR3

- [HB2589 land divisions; county regulation; surveys](#) (Griffin: Dunn, Nutt, et al.) prohibits a county board of supervisors from requiring applicants for a land division to conduct a survey or pay property taxes as conditions of approval. **OPPOSE.**

Tuesday, March 17th

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water at 2:00 P.M. in HHR1

- [SB1301 water banking; storage credits; subcontractors](#) (Pratt: Alston, Otondo) limits the sale of long-term storage credits that have been distributed to a Central Arizona Water Conservation District municipal or industrial subcontractor. Allows the Arizona Water Banking Authority to distribute long-term storage credits directly to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's municipal and industrial subcontractors. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1350 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Brophy McGee: Bowie) appropriates \$1 million annually from the state lottery for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. The lottery was the original funding source for the State Parks Heritage Fund, so it is appropriate to have the funds come from here. This differs from HB2551 in that HB2551 has a \$10 million one-time appropriation from the General Fund. **SUPPORT.**

House Committee on Commerce at 2:00 P.M. in HHR3

- [SB1449 product liability; civil action; limitation](#) (Farnsworth E: Leach) limits product liability lawsuits against the seller of a product that is not also the manufacturer of that product. **OPPOSE.**

House Committee on Elections at 2:00 P.M. in HHR4

- This committee is not meeting.

Wednesday, March 18th

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy at 2:00 P.M. in SHR109

- **Executive Nominations - Arizona State Parks Board - Jeffrey Buchanan**
- [HB2593 mining advisory council; repeal](#) (Griffin) repeals this council that does little, if anything. **SUPPORT**
- [HCR2014 hardrock mining industry; recognition](#) (Griffin) is a resolution that asks for special involvement of the hardrock mining industry relative to any regulatory changes. It does not seem that this industry should get more recognition than tourism or outdoor recreation, for example.

Senate Committee on Federal Relations at 2:00 P.M. in HHR4

- [SCR1044 supporting border security](#) (Mesnard) is a fear mongering measure supporting federal border efforts. **OPPOSE.**

Thursday, March 19th

House Committee on Land and Agriculture at 9:00 A.M. in HHR3

- [SB1083 agriculture department; livestock loss board](#) (Allen S.) allows for paying livestock owners for utilizing nonlethal avoidance measures with wolves rather than just dead livestock. This improves a bad program. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1304 pest management; unlicensed business activities](#) (Pratt) directs the Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture to educate the public regarding pest management and

allows them to maintain a publicly available list of those who violate pest management licensure requirements. Prescribes a class 1 misdemeanor for certain pest management violations. **MONITOR.**

- [SB1488 appropriation; best land management practices](#) (Otondo: Allen S., Alston, et al.) appropriates \$4 million for a program to remove "hazardous vegetation" from state trust lands. There is no definition of "hazardous vegetation." **MONITOR.**

Senate Committee on Water and Agriculture at 10:00 A.M. in SHR3

- **HB2613 water resources annual report** (Dunn) will have a strike-everything amendment on **rural economic development**. It is not posted yet.
- [HCM2003 Now: urging eradication; salt cedars; waterways](#) (Griffin) is a message that asks Congress to appropriate money to help eradicate salt cedars and the Department of Interior to look at innovative ways to do so. It should include provisions for replacing them with native plants and restoring the hydrology. **MONITOR,**
- [HCM2009 floodwater harvesting; study; urging Congress](#) (Dunn: Biasiucci, Blackman, et al.) asks Congress to study implementing a diversion dam and pipeline as a partial solution to the water supply shortage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and the flood damage that occurs along the Mississippi River. What a terrible idea. **OPPOSE.**



Sunset at Saguaro National Park photo by Scott Mittelsteadt

