

2016 Environmental Report Card

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Photos and graphics courtesy of Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club, Mexicanwolves.org, and Arizona Legislative website.

2016 Arizona Legislature Seeks to Squander What Makes Arizona Special

The 52nd Legislature, Second Regular Session, adjourned *sine die* on Saturday, May 7 at 5:45 a.m. after 117 days. The 2016 legislative session was much longer than the 2015 session and a lot longer than it needed to be, plus way longer than was helpful. The focus was on undermining and weakening a lot of what makes our state special, including further weakening water laws and promoting unaccountable special taxing districts to accommodate unsustainable developments, clouding the future of rooftop solar, and erecting impediments to protection of public lands via national monuments or via the use of impacts fees for regional parks and open space.

Although many of the bills to advance this anti-conservation agenda did make it to the Governor's desk, three harmful bills were vetoed, including two terrible water bills and a big developer/land speculator bill that would have made it easier for developers to control special taxing districts for infrastructure. In other good news, despite a hard push from the Governor's office earlier in the session, the Senate did not advance a repeal of the State Parks Board. The Senate also did not bring to the floor two referenda that would have weakened the Voter Protection provisions of the Arizona Constitution, and a bill to allow electronic billboards in more parts of the state was deep-sixed in a Senate Committee.

The session included a repeat of previous sessions' bills to prohibit cities and counties from limiting plastic bags or from requiring energy benchmarking. It was clear that last year's bill violated single-subject provisions in the Arizona Constitution, so legislators repealed the 2015 bill and re-enacted the provisions in separate bills – HB2130 and HB2131. Governor Ducey signed both of those.

Electric utilities flexed their collective muscles at the Capitol by pushing through a bill to hinder rooftop solar installations and by promoting two referenda to compete with a proposed solar citizen initiative. After it looked like the referenda would likely pass out of the Senate, the proponents of the solar initiative withdrew as part of an agreement in which both referenda were also stopped. Proponents of the pro-solar measure are now in negotiations with the state's largest utility. It is unfortunate that a state with so much sunshine is doing its best to prevent it from realizing its potential.

Lands around Grand Canyon and the Red Rock monument proposal in Sedona became the focus of a bill to hinder land protection via national monuments. This was pushed through by Representative Bob Thorpe, who actually advocated for mining uranium in order to protect lands from uranium contamination. This engendered some puzzled looks but was not enough to discourage passage of the bill promoting challenges to national monuments by the state attorney general.

There was a plethora of "memorials" and "resolutions" to send ill-conceived, ill-informed, and inaccurate anti-environmental messages to Congress and other federal entities. Senator Gail Griffin was the champion with seven anti-environmental memorials. She even pushed for a last-

minute resolution to oppose limits on harmful irresponsible shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monument. It passed out of the Senate on a voice vote before most people knew what was happening. It did not come to floor of the House, however.

Once again, the Legislature passed no bills to significantly advance conservation or environmental protection, although there were a couple of amendments that improved bills and programs, including one on notification of pesticide spraying in schools. While our state faces more and more challenges relative to climate change, water quality and quantity, air quality, protection of wildlife and its habitat, transition to clean energy, and continued environmental inequity, the Arizona Legislature consistently seeks to take us backward by weakening state laws, limiting local government's ability to protect resources, and objecting to important federal protections.

In 2016, lawmakers introduced 1,361 bills, memorials, and resolutions, 423 of which passed. Other than the budget and measures that kept a couple of programs rolling, Arizona's environment would have fared better without them.

This year, all but one Republican in the Senate and two in the House received failing grades. Five representatives earned an "A+," which means they voted 100 percent pro-environment and also did not miss a vote on the key bills Sierra Club scored. Five senators and 13 representatives also received an "A."

Senators were graded using 12 bills and two memorials. House members were graded using 14 bills, two memorials, and two referenda.

Governor Doug Ducey earned a "D+" on the 2016 Environmental Report Card. Although we appreciate him vetoing the two bad water bills and the bill on community facilities districts, he did again sign the bill to limit cities' ability to require energy benchmarking and a separate bill to stop cities from limiting the use of plastic bags and other disposable containers that litter the landscape and fill up landfills. He signed two anti-wolf bills, a bill to divert dollars from habitat protection, a measure to criminalize helping with early ballot collection, and a bill to hinder rooftop solar installations. He was graded on 12 bills.

Everyone was graded on a curve. The bills focused on water, development, energy, wildlife and habitat, state parks, Voter Protection Act, national monuments, electronic billboards, and elections.

2016 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD

D+	Governor Ducey
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SENATE GRADES

HOUSE GRADES

A+	
A	Bradley, Dalessandro, Hobbs, Quezada, Sherwood
B	Contreras, Farley, McGuire, Meza, Pancrazi
C	Cajero Bedford*, Miranda
D	Begay
F	S. Allen, Barto, Biggs, Burges, Dial, Donahue, Driggs, D. Farnsworth, Griffin, Kavanagh, Lesko, Pierce, Shooter, Smith, Worsley, Yarbrough, Yee

A+	Friese, Kopec, Mach, McCune Davis, Meyer
A	Alston, Andrade, Clark, Fernandez, Gabaldón, Larkin, Mendez, Otondo, Plumlee, Rios, Saldade, Velasquez, Wheeler
B	Bolding, Cardenas, Espinoza*, Gonzales*, Hale
C	Benally*
D	Brophy McGee, Campbell
F	Ackerley, J. Allen, Barton, Borrelli, Bowers, Boyer, Carter, Cobb, Coleman, Fann, E. Farnsworth, Finchem, Gowan, Gray, Kern, Lawrence, Leach, Livingston, Lovas, Mesnard, Mitchell, Montenegro, Norgaard, Olson, Petersen, Pratt, Rivero, Robson, Shope, Stevens, Thorpe, Townsend, Ugenti-Rita, Weninger

*Some of these legislators received lower grades than normal due to missed votes and conflicts in scheduling.

Environmental Super Stars



Rep. Randall Friese
(D-9)



Rep. Matt Kopec
(D-9)



Rep. Stefanie Mach
(D-10)



Rep. Debbie McCune
Davis (D-30)



Rep. Eric Meyer
(D-28)

Five Representatives earned an “A+” on the Environmental Report Card this session, including Representatives Randall Friese (D-9), Matt Kopec (D-9), Stefanie Mach (D-10), Debbie McCune Davis (D-30), and Eric Meyer (D-28).

Everyone on the “A+” list voted pro-environment 100 percent of the time and did not miss any of the votes on bills Sierra Club scored. They voted against the harmful water bills, repeal of the State Parks Board, swiping Heritage Fund habitat dollars, impeding solar installations, and hindering wolf recovery, among others. These legislators spoke up against weakening environmental protection time after time. In addition, all of these legislators were there, day after day, serving their constituents. Special recognition goes to Environmental Superstar **Representative Debbie McCune Davis**, who is ending her decades of service in the legislature at the end of 2016. She has served with integrity and dedication and has consistently voted to support environmental protection and against efforts to weaken protections for our water, wildlife, air, and more. She will be missed at the Arizona Legislature.

Environmental Guardians



Rep. Lela Alston
(D-24)



Rep. Richard Andrade
(D-29)



Sen. David Bradley
(D-10)



Rep. Ken Clark
(D-24)



Sen. Andrea Dalessandro
(D-2)



Rep. Charlene Fernandez
(D-4)



Rep. Rosanna Gabaldón
(D-2)



Sen. Katie Hobbs
(D-24)



Rep. Jonathan Larkin
(D-30)



Rep. Juan Jose Mendez
(D-26)



Rep. Lisa Otondo
(D-4)



Rep. Celeste Plumlee
(D-26)



Sen. Martin Quezada
(D-29)



Rep. Rebecca Rios
(D-27)



Rep. Macario Saldate
(D-3)



Sen. Andrew Sherwood
(D-26)



Rep. Ceci Velasquez
(D-29)



Rep. Bruce Wheeler
(D-10)

Not unlike last session, Sierra Club's focus this legislative session was again on defense with no real environmental protection bills advancing to a floor vote. Senators and Representatives who earned an "A" on the report card were Environmental Guardians, voting consistently against bills that would harm Arizona's waters, wildlife, and, ultimately, our future. They opposed the resurrection of bills to limit local government actions to keep plastic bags out of the waste stream, measures to hinder wolf recovery, and bills to take away local control on energy savings.

Senators David Bradley (D-10), Andrea Dalessandro (D-2), Katie Hobbs (D-24), Martin Quezada (D-29), and Andrew Sherwood (D-26) all received an “A” on this year’s report card.

Representatives Lela Alston (D-24), Richard Andrade (D-29), Ken Clark (D-24), Charlene Fernandez (D-4), Rosanna Gabaldón (D-2), Jonathan Larkin (D-30), Juan Jose Mendez (D-26), Lisa Otondo (D-4), Celeste Plumlee (D-26), Rebecca Rios (D-27), Macario Saldate (D-3), Ceci Velasquez (D-29), and Bruce Wheeler (D-10) all received an “A” for opposing the long list of bad environmental bills. (Note: In some cases, members missed votes.)

Environmental Wrecking Crew



The majority at the Arizona Legislature continued the race to the bottom with regard to environmental protection by introducing a plethora of anti-environmental bills and passing many of them, including bills to weaken water laws, measures to impede wolf recovery, and bills to promote unsustainable development. This session, legislators succeeded in passing almost nothing positive for environmental protection. All but one Senate Republican and two House Republicans earned an “F” on this year’s report card.

Most of the “Environmental Wrecking Crew” voted for every harmful environmental bill that moved through the process, thus earning an “F” on the report card. A handful of those who received an “F” voted against only one or two these anti-environmental bills.

Failing in the Senate were **Senators Sylvia Allen (R-6), Nancy Barto (R-15), Andy Biggs (R-12), Judy Burges (R-22), Jeff Dial (R-18), Sue Donahue (R-5), Adam Driggs (R-28), David Farnsworth (R-16), Gail Griffin (R-14), John Kavanagh (R-23), Debbie Lesko (R-21), Steve Pierce (R-1), Don Shooter (R-13), Steve Smith (R-11), Bob Worsley (R-25), Steven Yarbrough (R-17), and Kimberly Yee (R-20).**

Representatives who failed this year included **Representatives John Ackerley (R-2), John Allen (R-15), Brenda Barton (R-6), Sonny Borrelli (R-5), Rusty Bowers (R-25), Paul Boyer (R-20), Heather Carter (R-15), Regina Cobb (R-5), Doug Coleman (R-16), Karen Fann (R-1), Edwin Farnsworth (R-12), Mark Finchem (R-11), David Gowan, Sr. (R-14), Rick Gray (R-21), Anthony Kern (R-20), Jay Lawrence (R-23), Vince Leach (R-11), David Livingston (R-22), Phil Lovas (R-22), J.D. Mesnard (R-17), Darin Mitchell (R-13), Steve Montenegro (R-13), Jill Norgaard (R-18), Justin Olson (R-25), Warren Petersen (R-12), Frank Pratt (R-8), Tony Rivero (R-21), Bob Robson (R-18), T.J. Shope (R-8), David Stevens (R-14), Bob Thorpe (R-6), Kelly Townsend (R-16), Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23), and Jeff Weninger (R-17).**

2016 Environmental Report Card

Bill Summaries



[HB2023 delivery; early ballots; limitation](#) (Ugenti-Rita) makes it a Class 6 felony to collect early ballots unless you are a family member or caregiver. This is the reincarnation of the voter suppression bill from last year and is similar to provisions passed previously that had been stopped via a referendum. Trying to make sure people can vote and that their votes – their ballots – get delivered and counted is not and should not be a crime. Unfortunately, our legislators disagree.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [34-23-3](#) and the Senate on Third Read [17-12-1](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[HB 2130 municipalities; counties; energy use; reporting](#) (Petersen) prohibits cities, towns, and counties from requiring that businesses, commercial buildings, or multifamily housing projects measure or report energy usage and consumption. This means municipalities cannot require energy audits or benchmarking. Energy benchmarking information is the type of information that is important to consumers and helps reduce energy use and water use and saves money. Requiring energy benchmarking is much like requiring a miles-per-gallon sticker on an automobile. This bill and the one below were combined in a single bill last year. After a lawsuit was filed, legislators realized they had combined unrelated measures so repealed last year's bill and brought back both bad proposals and passed them separately. This addressed one aspect of the lawsuit, the single subject issue, but not other key concerns.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [18-11-1](#) and the House on Final Read [35-23-2](#); it was signed by the Governor.

[HB2131 municipalities; counties; auxiliary containers; prohibitions](#) (Petersen) prohibits cities, towns and counties from imposing any kind of fee relative to limiting "auxiliary containers," meaning plastic bags, beverage containers, and more. It also prohibits local government from regulating bags, bottles, and more relative to businesses, commercial buildings, or multifamily properties. The measure undercuts local efforts to minimize the use of plastic bags, including via fee programs. This will likely continue to be the subject of litigation.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [18-11-1](#) and the House on Final Read [34-24-2](#), and it was signed by the Governor.

[HB2507 outdoor advertising](#) (Borrelli, Mitchell: Finchem, et al.) would have reversed an agreement from 2012 that limited lighted digital billboards to the Phoenix and Yuma areas to now include most of northwestern Arizona. This bill promoted the interests of the billboard industry at the expense of dark skies and would have created yet more distractions on our state's roads. Arizona is one of the few states that still has dark skies available for astronomy. Luckily, a majority on the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee agreed and defeated this bill.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [32-26-1](#) and was defeated in the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee [3-6](#).

[HB2568 community facilities districts; formation; governance](#) (Gowan) would have made significant changes to the laws that govern the creation of Community Facilities Districts, which can issue bonds to finance infrastructure development and have been used to promote urban, suburban, and rural sprawl. These districts promote development in areas where there is limited or no current infrastructure, including in the Benson area where developers are proposing Vigneto, a massive development that will harm the San Pedro River and St. David Cienega.

Under current laws, a municipality or county may declare its intention to form such a district upon the petition of the owners of at least 25 percent of the properties within the proposed district. Also, a town or county's governing body gets to decide whether to run the new district itself or to appoint members to its board. If the district is more than 600 acres, the town or county will appoint a five-member board.

HB2568 would have required a municipality or county to declare its intention to form a Community Facilities District if all the property owners petitioned for the district's formation and the proposed area were more than 600 acres. Additionally, it would have shifted the balance of power away from municipalities and counties. Under HB2568, the governing board for 600-acre-plus districts would be comprised of five members, including two members appointed by the municipality or county, one appointed from a list provided by the landowners and two with expertise in real estate, construction, etc.

A city council is at least somewhat responsive to voters and even perhaps to changing desires, but a separate board of directors becomes its own kingdom (government entity). The landowners would have even been able to vote for the next set of directors. This measure would have given unfair advantage to developers while sacrificing public desires and environmental protection.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [21-8-1](#) and the House on Final Read [31-26-3](#). It was [vetoed](#) by the Governor.

[HB2585 national monuments; justification; litigation](#)

(Thorpe, Barton, S. Allen, et al.) states that the State Land Department shall determine if a national monument is the smallest possible size to protect the objects of that monument. If the Land Department determines that it is not, then it must refer the matter to the attorney general, who **may then** file an action to challenge the monument. There are numerous problems with this bill, but the overarching one is that

it is inconsistent with what the people of Arizona support. Time after time, Arizonans have stood up and spoken up to protect our public lands. A national monument protects land that is already public and does **not** include state and private lands, contrary to what proponents indicated.



Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [20-8-2](#) and the House on Final Read [35-18-7](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[HB2600 NOW: repeal; state boards and committees](#) (Shope) included a provision to repeal the Arizona State Parks Board. While there are certainly boards and commissions that are no longer necessary and that do not meet, the Arizona State Parks Board is not one of them. The State Parks Board’s purpose is to “select, acquire, preserve, establish, and maintain areas of natural features, scenic beauty, historical, and scientific interest, and zoos and botanical gardens, for the education, pleasure, recreation, and health of the people. . . .” Elimination of the State Parks Board would have meant less transparency, fewer opportunities for public engagement on a broad level, and one less entity to advocate for a parks system badly in need of more advocates.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 5

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [35-23-2](#) but was never brought to the floor of the Senate, so it died.

[HCR2023 proposition 105; legislative authority](#) (Thorpe: Barton, Boyer, et al.) would have referred to the ballot a measure to allow the Legislature to repeal or change voter-approved measures by a three-fifths vote. It would have removed the requirement that the Legislature “further the purpose” of the ballot measure. This would have been a significant weakening of the voter protection provisions in the Arizona Constitution.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [32-25-3](#) but was never brought to the floor of the Senate, so it died and will not appear on the 2016 ballot.

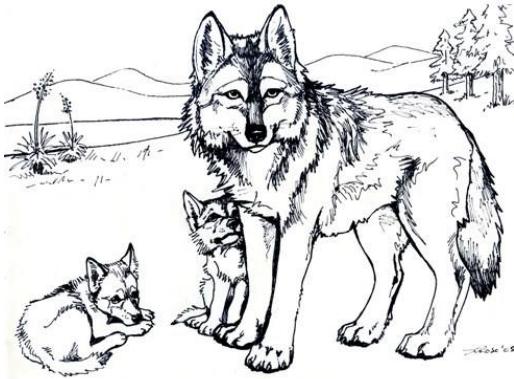
[HCR2043 initiative; referendum; vote percentage requirements](#) (Mesnard) would have referred to the ballot a measure to weaken the Voter Protection Act provisions in the Arizona Constitution by allowing the Legislature to more easily amend measures passed by voters. It would have allowed the Legislature to amend an initiative or referendum approved in 2016 or later, if the Legislature approved the

amendments by a greater percentage than the percentage of voters that approved the measure. If a ballot measure got more than a two-thirds vote, then a legislative amendment would still have had to further the purpose, otherwise not. This latter provision was a key weakening aspect as most measures do not pass by more than a two-thirds vote.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [32-25-3](#) but was never brought to the floor of the Senate, so it died.



[SB1243 Mexican wolf; G&F approval; reporting](#) (Griffin, Donahue, Worsley, et al.) requires the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to attempt to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding releases of Mexican gray wolves. The purpose is to erect additional roadblocks to release, including requiring that a full DNA profile be provided prior to release and limiting the area where releases can occur. Such an MOU would result in further hindering the recovery of these wolves as the Game and Fish Commission has been particularly hostile to wolf recovery in recent years. It has opposed expanding the release areas or releasing any adult

wolves, despite the fact that scientists have determined that we need more wolves in the wild now and we need them in places outside of the current recovery zone, such as the greater Grand Canyon area. (Read more about the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's efforts to sabotage wolf recovery at [Seven Ways Game and Fish Sabotages Wolf Recovery](#).) Game and Fish already has a position to only approve cross-fostering – introducing pups from captivity into the den of another wolf – and to allow no new adult wolf releases from captivity. Cross-fostering has had limited success and is risky and difficult. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the responsible agency for approving releases and has a responsibility to recover these animals under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [40-18-2](#) and the Senate on Final Read [20-8-2](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SB1268 adequate water supply requirements; municipalities](#) (Griffin, Gowan, Stevens) would have allowed cities and towns to opt out of county ordinances requiring a proposed subdivision located outside of an Active Management Area (AMA) to demonstrate an adequate water supply before the final plat for the subdivision can be approved. This bill was introduced to facilitate a harmful development in Sierra Vista that will harm flows in the San Pedro River.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 5

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [33-25-2](#) and the Senate on Final Read [17-12-1](#) and was [vetoed](#) by the Governor.

[SB1344 agriculture omnibus](#) (Pierce, Griffin, et al.) includes a provision to direct the Arizona Department of Agriculture to get involved with controlling and destroying “reintroduced predatory wildlife,” which is not defined in the bill or in Title 17. This appears to be directed at Mexican gray wolves, although it could also affect black-footed ferrets as they are reintroduced predatory wildlife. The bill authorizes counties to **destroy** reintroduced predatory wildlife – wolves, ferrets, or other reintroduced predators. The last thing we need are more entities gunning for wolves. The state cannot authorize killing endangered species, including wolves and black-footed ferrets. These species are protected by the Endangered Species Act, and any actions that may harm them must be authorized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife and only occur under limited circumstances.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 2

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [45-13-2](#) and the Senate on Final Read [23-5-2](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SB1361 G&F; heritage fund; expenditures](#) (Griffin, Cardenas, et al.) swipes 50 percent of the habitat acquisition dollars in the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund and directs those dollars to operation and maintenance. This is a significant hit to the habitat acquisition/protection funds and contrary to what the voters approved by a more than a two-to-one margin in 1990. These dollars come from the Arizona Lottery and were specifically allocated in the Heritage Fund initiative, partly because people were concerned about them not going for the intended purposes. The habitat dollars help protect habitat for threatened and endangered species, including native fish, frogs, and more. These dollars are the only state-specific habitat funds we have. Arizona Game and Fish can already use a portion of the Heritage Fund for operation and maintenance. Does the agency really need another million dollars from this limited fund?

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [21-8-1](#) and the House on Third Read [36-17-7](#) and was signed by the Governor.



[SB1400 NOW: county water supply provision; renewal](#) (Griffin) would have required a county Board of Supervisors (BOS) to review the county adequate water supply provisions every five years and a unanimous vote by the BOS in order to rescind the provisions. A unanimous vote of the BOS is currently required to adopt these water adequacy provisions, which is why only two counties – Cochise and Yuma – have done so. Although this bill was not as bad as the original version, it still would have resulted in a weakening of water adequacy provisions,

especially as Cochise County looks to eliminate the provisions to allow more unsustainable development that will harm the San Pedro River.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [31-25-4](#) and in the Senate on Final Read [16-12-2](#) and was [vetoed](#) by the Governor.

[SB1417 distributed energy generation systems](#) (Lesko, S. Allen, Bradley, et al.) establishes new, restrictive, and unnecessary regulatory hurdles and costs for the solar industry. It will not just hurt big companies but will also harm local solar installers. Just last year, the Legislature passed a compromise bill to further regulate solar leases. Those provisions just went into effect in January 2015, providing no opportunity for them to really be implemented and no analysis of their impact. Arizona's big monopoly utilities sought these additional hurdles through this legislation to try to make it even more difficult to install solar on rooftops.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 2

This bill passed out of the House on Third Read [49-11](#) and the Senate on Final Read [29-0-1](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SB1516 campaign finance amendments](#) (Driggs) is a significant rewrite of our election laws that opens the door for more dark money. It eliminates donor disclosure for ballot measure campaigns and most independent expenditures by establishing that a tax-exempt corporation in good standing with the IRS is not a political committee and thus eliminates reporting of contributions for independent expenditures and ballot measure campaigns. The measure provides that no legal or accounting services paid for anyone, corporation, union, or any person, are a campaign contribution. It allows candidates to play kingmaker by making contributions to other candidates to get favored treatment. The measure lowers the presumptive penalty for major violations from three times the amount of the violation to just the amount of the violation. There is much more in this measure, which may be subject to a referendum.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [18-10-2](#) and the House on Third Read [31-27-2](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SCM1007 ozone concentration standard; urging EPA](#) (Griffin) is a memorial asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revert to a weaker ozone standard that is less protective of public health.

Last year, the EPA announced a long-delayed new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for smog pollution or ground-level ozone and set the level at 70 parts per billion (ppb). The standard was last updated in 2008 when the Bush administration rejected the recommendations of expert scientists and medical health professionals, who warned that the adopted 75 ppb level was insufficient to protect public health and would leave too many Americans in harm's way.



Over the past seven years, scientists, medical experts, and public health advocates have consistently called for a stronger standard of 60 ppb and have pointed to an ever-growing body of scientific literature that demonstrates the significant harm the 75 ppb standard does to public health, particularly to vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and people with respiratory illnesses, including asthma.

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), inhaling smog pollution is like getting a sunburn on your lungs and often results in immediate breathing trouble. Long-term exposure to smog pollution is linked to chronic respiratory diseases like asthma, reproductive and developmental disorders, and even premature death. It also disproportionately harms low-income communities and communities of color, who are more likely to live close to sources of pollution and roadways, have less access to medical resources and health insurance, and die from asthma-related complications.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 1

This bill passed out of the Senate on Third Read [18-11-1](#) and in the House on Third Read [34-24-2](#) and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

[SCM1015 EPA; exceeding authority; urging Congress](#) (Griffin) is a memorial asking Congress to enact the “Stopping EPA Overreach Act” to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from enacting rules to reduce carbon emissions. This is a bad message and encourages inaction on an issue that is important to our future. We need to get moving on the Clean Power Plan – and more.

The Clean Power Plan sets the first-ever national carbon pollution limits on power plants, which are the largest source of such pollution in the United States. It will secure significant reductions in carbon pollution – 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 – while promoting the development of our clean energy economy. Perhaps most exciting, the standard opens up the opportunity for every state – and its residents – to chart their own clean energy future. This memorial fails to recognize these benefits and, instead, seeks to take our state backwards.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 1

This memorial passed out of the Senate on Third Read [19-10-1](#) and the House on Third Read [33-24-3](#) and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.



Sierra Club Mission

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

