Urgent Action Alert!

We are calling on all of you to take a few minutes to contact your member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives to ask her/him to “Vote NO on the following bills.” These bills may be heard as early as 9:30am Monday morning. We have determined that these four (4) bills must be stopped to protect Oklahoma’s environment.

The first two bills will cause further pollution to our state if they pass:

**SB939** (Sen. Taylor and Rep. Pfeiffer) would exempt business sectors designated as “critical infrastructure sectors” from “nuisance” lawsuits.

- This bill is far too general and almost ALL Oklahoma businesses, including oil and gas, would be exempted from nuisance lawsuits.
- It does not define “nuisance lawsuit,” nor offer any limits for such a definition.
- This bill creates risk of harm to landowners and communities without them having any legal recourse to stop the harm or correct the problems if a poorly worded bill is passed.

**SB1022** (Sen. David and Rep. Boles) gives the executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board the power and duty to issue temporary permits and regular permits without any additional oversight or public comment

- This bill was filed as the result of a lawsuit against the OWRB and the State of Oklahoma that proved OWRB was abusing the permit process-- this bill would make that abusive practice LEGAL.
- The author claims this is about permits needed in western Oklahoma-- but there is no language in this bill that would limit where/when/how these permits could be approved.

These next two bills will interfere with and hamper democracy in our state if they pass:

**SB947** (Sen. Rosino and Rep. West) would hamper the ability to carry out citizen initiative petitions.

- This bill would charge the petition seeker to determine whether the petition would cost the State of Oklahoma additional financial assistance-- this is the job of the State of Oklahoma, not of Oklahoma citizens seeking to improve their democracy.
- This bill would hamper the free and easy flow of citizen-led democracy by adding an additional layer of bureaucracy.

• “I certainly would not want a constitutional convention. Whoa! Who knows what would come out of it?” Former Oklahoma State Senator and assistant majority floor leader Anthony Sykes, a Republican, warned that “When the convention starts, it’s open season. That could mean a repeal of the second amendment, a repeal of the fourth, fifth, and sixth amendments.”

• The bottom line-- a national Constitutional Convention would simply open a can of worms that NOBODY has a clue as to the final outcome. America itself as a nation is at stake.

Please contact your Representative and ask her/him to “Vote NO on SB939/ SB1022/ SB947/ and SJR23.”

We have shared contact lists for all state Representatives on our website: [https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/legislative](https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/legislative)

If you do not know who your Representative is, please use the “Find My Legislator” tool found here: [http://www.oklegislature.gov/](http://www.oklegislature.gov/)

After you have contacted your own Representative, if you have time to contact other Representatives you can use our annual “Oklahoma Environmental Legislative Scorecards” to find legislators who may be more willing to listen to your requests as A, B, or C environmental voters:

[https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/scorecard](https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/scorecard)

For more information about all of our priority bills, please go to the legislative link of the Oklahoma Sierra Club Website: [https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/legislative](https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/legislative)

Also-- please JOIN US for our weekly Monday legislative Zoom chat where we talk about action alerts for the week, discuss how things are going with our advocacy, and occasionally we even carry out some lobby tasks together in real-time. We hope to see you there! Just click on the following link, and you can join us any time from 12:30pm to 2:30pm on Mondays-- for some or all of the meeting, it is up to you!

[https://sierraclub.zoom.us/j/99293167038?pwd=YnZZNE83aTBFQ1lpSzdmaml5ckF2Zz09](https://sierraclub.zoom.us/j/99293167038?pwd=YnZZNE83aTBFQ1lpSzdmaml5ckF2Zz09)

Thank you for taking quick action on these important bills!