Urgent Action Alert!

We are calling your attention this week to some very troubling and disturbing anti-protest bills designed to hinder Oklahomans’ rights to peaceful protest and public gathering. Please call your legislators and ask them to vote NO on the following bills which are already On Agenda-- a vote is imminent as early as 12:30pm Monday for the following bills:

HB1822 (Rep. McBride and Sen. Weaver) specifically seeks to limit all forms of protest at the Oklahoma State Capitol.
  - This bill is a state overreach restricting freedom of speech far beyond the bounds of the state capitol and makes recommendations that cannot be objectively enforced.

HB2095 (Rep. Lepak) seeks to radically punish and limit peaceful protest by attempting to add a generic term of “unlawful assembly” to a long-standing criminal statute known as “racketeering.”
  - Racketeering was never intended for, nor has it ever been applied to, protest or citizens engaged in public assemblies. This bill is an extreme legal over-reach.

The following anti-protest bills are live bills that are not yet on agenda, but may be added to agenda any time this week:

HB1674 (Rep. West and Sen. Standridge) seeks to criminalize legal peaceful protests that make use of public right-of-way, and this bill seeks to punish any organization involved in such peaceful protests.
  - This bill is likely unconstitutional, and it seeks to punish people for simply holding legal meetings and gatherings.

HB2215 (Rep. McDougle and Sen. Weaver) is similar to HB1674, seeking to criminalize public use of public right-of-way.
  - It is unconstitutional to seek to limit where people may walk or gather-- almost all business entrances/ exits adjoin public right-of-way.

We have shared contact lists for all state Representatives and Senators on our website: https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/legislative

If you do not know who your legislators are, please use the “Find My Legislator” tool found here: http://www.oklegislature.gov/

After you have contacted your own legislators, if you have time to contact other legislators 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

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

Thank you for taking quick action on these important bills!