



## Take Action!



March 10, 2023

Hi all!

This week, both the House and Senate passed bills in committee to make it more difficult to vote and to make it more difficult to put ballot measures on the ballot. The House Municipal Oversight and Elections Committee was particularly disturbing as that committee both advanced bad bills and bullied those testifying against them. Being elected to office is not a license to bully and intimidate people.

Two bills to cut the public out of the process for certain transmission lines advanced out of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee and will likely go to the floor of the Senate next week. [HB2437 transmission lines; applications; exceptions](#) (Griffin) exempts a transmission line that is entirely on private land from being required to obtain a certificate of environmental compatibility from the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee, so

there would be no environmental review. [HB2496 transmission lines; definition](#) (Griffin) changes the definition of a transmission line to include lines that are more than one mile. This means they would have no review by the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee. We tried to get this amended to address our concerns, to provide a way to trigger review, but the bill sponsor would not even consider it.

**[Please contact your senator and ask them to oppose both HB2437 and HB2496!](#)**

And if you have not already taken action on the bills that are significant attacks on direct democracy via the citizen initiative and referendum process, please do so now by using the button below.

---

Take Action!

---

If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up](#). To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign-up link](#).

**Please sign in on the Request to Speak system to OPPOSE these bills SB1021, SB1074, SB1095, SB1170, SB1257, SB1390, SB1565, SCR1018, HB2056, and HB2440, and to SUPPORT HB2441.**

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link](#).

**For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Thanks so much for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

---

## Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



---

## Monday, March 13th

There are no bills we are following up on Monday. Senate Elections Committee is not meeting.

## Tuesday, March 14th

**House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SB1257 water resources; assistant director](#) (Petersen) requires the Department of Water Resources director to appoint an assistant director that only works with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority on augmentation and instate storage. This would put even more resources into augmentation versus conservation. Why not have this person focus on that? Or on adjudications? Or on establishing additional active management areas or irrigation non-expansion areas? Or any of the myriad water issues that would help us better be prepared and help address our water shortages. This bill has no additional funding for this position either. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1390 water infrastructure finance authority; amendments](#) (Kerr) is a "trailer" bill for last year's massive bill on the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority that set up an augmentation program and provided some funding for water conservation. SB1390 changes the definition of eligible entities for the conservation grants to private entities and to natural resource conservation districts (NRCs). The bill should be amended to add Tribes, but not to add NRCs or private water companies. NRCs represent industrial agriculture and large ranches, not the broader public and many have advocated against environmental protection. Private water companies are for profit entities, so they should not be accessing these public dollars to bump up their profits. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1391 department of environmental quality; counsel](#) (Kerr) allows the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to employ outside counsel. **MONITOR**

**Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in SHR109**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2026 appropriation; on-farm efficiency fund](#) (Dunn) appropriates \$30 million to On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Fund. **MONITOR**
- [HB2374 state lake improvement fund; appropriation](#) (Biasucci: Gillette, Borrelli) appropriates \$5 million to State Parks for this fund. **MONITOR**

## Wednesday, March 15th

**Senate Committee on Commerce at 9:00 AM in SHR1**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2590 real estate disclosures; water; solar \(NOW: seller disclosure; water; solar; batteries\)](#) (Griffin) requires a seller's disclosure affidavit for land divisions to contain information on who hauls water to the property and the source of that water and whether the property has any battery energy storage devices, as well as replacement and disposal of these devices. This was amended in the House to take out the worst provisions, so we are no longer opposed. The water disclosure does not quite get the issue of disclosing whether or not there is adequate water. **MONITOR**

**House Committee on House Ways and Means at 9:00 AM in HHR1**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SCR1018 prohibit tax; monitoring; vehicle mileage](#) (Hoffman) refers to the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit any fees based on vehicle miles traveled. As we reduce reliance on gasoline and gasoline-powered vehicles, gas tax

revenues will decrease and other ways to fund road maintenance are needed such as looking at vehicle miles traveled. **OPPOSE**

### House Committee on Government at 9:30 AM in HHR3

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1021 attorney general; legislature; legal challenges](#) (Kavanagh) requires the attorney general to defend all laws passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. **OPPOSE**

### House Committee on Municipal Oversight and Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1074 election; contest; technical correction \(NOW: tabulating equipment; standards; source codes\)](#) (Borrelli) prohibits the use of electronic voting equipment as the primary method for tabulating votes election unless certain requirements are met. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1095 early ballot envelope; notice](#) (Carroll: Gowan: Livingston) requires an early ballot envelope to include a statement that says the election will be delayed if you return your ballot after the Friday before the election, which could discourage people returning early ballots. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1105 early ballots; election day tabulation](#) (Carroll: Gowan) requires every county recorder to provide for a method for voters to have their completed early ballot tabulated on site at a polling place or voting center. **MONITOR**
- [SB1170 ballot drop boxes; prohibition \(NOW: ballot drop boxes; requirements; appropriation\)](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits unmonitored drop boxes. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1180 voter registrations; payment prohibited](#) (Bennett) says a person can't pay or receive money or any valuable thing based on the number of voters registered or the number of voter registration forms collected or submitted. **MONITOR**
- [SB1565 ballot processing; electronic adjudication; limitation](#) (Carroll: Bennett, Gowan, et al.) prohibits the use of machines, devices, firmware or software that contain artificial intelligence or learning hardware, firmware or software for an election. Why? **OPPOSE**

## Thursday, March 16th

### Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 9:30 AM in SHR2

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2056 dry washes; permit program exemption](#) (Diaz: Carbone, Dunn, et al.) says dry washes, arroyos, swales, etc. and other similar features on private property are exempt from state permitting relative to dredge and fill and are not considered protected surface waters. While the state does not currently have a dredge and fill program for washes, prohibiting these ephemeral waters from being protected is a bad idea as it could send a confusing message to those with washes through their property and it sends a very bad message about desert washes, failing to recognize their significant values, especially here in the Desert Southwest. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2439 vehicle emissions inspections; enactment date](#) (Griffin) extends the date by which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must approve modifications to vehicle emissions testing program. **MONITOR**
- [HB2440 electric energy; power companies; priorities](#) (Griffin) requires electric utilities (both public service companies such as Arizona Public Service and Tucson Electric Power and public power entities such as Salt River Project) to prioritize grid reliability and affordability in planning, procurement, etc. It requires that they provide electric service at just and reasonable rates. The latter requirement is unnecessary for public service corporations and also may create constitutional conflicts as the Arizona Constitution in Article 15, section 3, requires the Arizona Corporation Commission to establish just and reasonable rates. There is no reason to limit planning and procurement to just these two factors as there are significant other issues to be considered in planning, including sustainability. The ACC also has extensive integrated resource plan rules with which this provision may conflict and certainly will create confusion. **OPPOSE**



- [HB2441 state tree; residential planning](#) (Griffin) prohibits cities and counties from adopting or enforcing a land use regulation that prohibits or restricts the use of a palo verde in a residential housing development. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2443 navigable stream adjudication commission; extension](#) (Griffin) extends the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission to July 1, 2028. **MONITOR**

