

AriSEIA Members - Here is a quick update on solar/renewable and energy efficiency legislation and the SEIA weekly Update follows.

Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made. Otto von Bismarck

Those words pretty much sums it for the way that this session is shaping up for some solar energy legislation. HB2491 barely passed through the House Finance Committee, but sailed through Natural Resources and Rural Affairs with flying colors. It's Finance Committee hearing was the scene of quite a rant against solar by Sen. Ron Gould, of District 3, in Lake Havasu City. Also voting against the bill was Sen. Ken Cheuvront, of District 15, in Central Phoenix, and Sen. Pamela Gorman, of my own District 6. She lives in Anthem. Thanks should go to Sen. Barbara Leff, of District 11, in Paradise Valley. Even though she has questions and concerns about the bill, she voted for it, allowing it to make it out of Committee. Yesterday, HB2491 passed through the Rules committee. It is on the Caucus Calendar for today. It is also on the Consent Calendar. Senate Rules allow a bill that moved through the Senate unamended to be placed on the consent Calendar and move directly to 3rd reading for final passage as long as there are no objections within 48 hours. This helps to expedite the legislative process.

Also HB 2496 - Schools; Energy and Water Savings (Contracting Mechanism for Schools) is on the Caucus and Consent Calendars. Please call your Senators and ask them to support both of these bills.

Also yesterday, SB1330, criminal justice commission; membership (now, homeowners' association; homestead exemption; foreclosure) was heard before the Committee of the Whole Calendar in the Arizona House of Representatives and the solar/HOA amendment was adopted. The amendment, which actually was sponsored by Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, of District 15, in Central Phoenix, passed without difficulty. Of course, the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the national HOA organization, is highly opposed to this bill since it allows homeowners to take the homestead exemption when liens are placed on them by HOA's. Lobbyists for the CAI, the HOA management companies and the HOA lawyers will be actively trying to kill this legislation. It is extremely important to show our support.

Please call your Representative in the House and ask them to support this bill.

If you know who your Senator or Representative is, go to <http://www.azleg.gov/memberRoster.asp?Body=H> for contact information. To email legislators go to <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp>. If you are not sure who your legislators are, please go to <http://www.vote-smart.org> (You will need your 9-digit zipcode.) or call the House or Senate information desks. If you're outside the Phoenix area, you can call your legislators' offices toll free at 1-800-352-8404. In the Phoenix area call (602) 926-3559 (Senate) or (602) 926-4221 (House). Correspondence goes to 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890. For more information on legislation go to <http://www.azleg.gov>

If you have any questions, please free to contact me. Thank you for your support.

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