

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael Neary - President - Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association (AriSEIA)

* HB2766 Omnibus Energy Act of 2008

The Bill passed the Rules Committee with a six to one vote. Senator Blendu was the lone vote against the bill in the Committee.

Unfortunately, the bill hit a snag on Tuesday in the Republican Caucus when Senator Blendu spoke out against it and others ganged up on the Bill as well. Joining Senator Blendu, were Senator Pamela Gorman and Senator Ron Gould. Fortunately, Senator John Hupenthal, of District 20 (Chandler) held the bill fearing that it might receive a do not pass recommendation in Caucus. AriSEIA is going back to the senators in order to firm up support for the bill before it goes back to the

Republican Caucus.

See the AZ Republic by Capital Reporter Mary Jo Pitzl.
Also note the comment by Senator Gorman...

<http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/PoliticalInsider/23940>

AriSEIA is asking all supporters to contact their Senator to support HB2766 as written, with the Flake substitute floor amendment. This amendment addresses concerns of some Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee members without watering down the Bill. It appears that many in the Legislature do not understand the importance of energy to Arizona's economy and environment.

* HB2615 solar energy systems; permits This Bill has passed the Arizona House of Representatives Final Read by a vote of 50 to 6 with 4 Representatives not voting.

This legislation will put into effect simple solar permitting standards and create a Legislative Study Group that would allow for all the permitting jurisdictions to come to the table with the solar industry to seek common ground on the best practices for solar permitting in Arizona. AriSEIA expects this to take place this fall.

The Bill has been transmitted to the Governor to be signed.

To email legislators
go to <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp>

If unsure about your legislators, go to <http://www.vote-smart.org> (Your 9-digit zipcode is required) or call the House or Senate information desks.

If outside the Phoenix area, 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>