



Corporation Commission Bills Factsheet (SB1175/HB2248, SB1459, HB2737)

Water for Arizona Coalition | February 09, 2021

The Water for Arizona Coalition (WAC) **opposes HB2248/SB1175, HB2737, and SB1459**, which could block the Arizona Corporation Commission from adopting final rules that will require 50% of the state's power to be carbon-free by 2032, 75% by 2040, and 100% carbon-free by 2050.¹ **A retreat on carbon emission goals is a threat to Arizona's economic security and water security**, which are inextricably linked.

A broad group of stakeholders developed these rules, including utilities, solar providers, energy efficiency activists, conservation organizations, and big and small businesses. The Energy Rules passed with bipartisan support, were led by Republicans, and were overwhelmingly supported by hundreds of businesses in Arizona. **We oppose these bills because they could undermine the hard work and progress made on Arizona's proposed clean energy rules.**

Without these rules, **Arizona would leave behind many of the benefits** clean energy development provides for the state, including:

- **Thousands of good-paying jobs**, which support Arizona's economy, workers, and entrepreneurs. The advanced energy sector employs 69,000 Arizonans – more than schools, colleges, agriculture, and mining industries.²
- **\$2 billion in savings for Arizonans**, with many of these benefits directly supporting Arizona's rural communities, which have captured 47% of the state's total installed renewable energy capacity.³
- **Arizona's "open for business" reputation** as businesses are increasingly seeking renewable energy supply and predictable long-term water supplies. Nearly half of the Fortune 500 companies have already set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Generating more energy with less water** – renewable energy sources require significantly less water than fossil-fueled sources. Investing in renewable electricity generation can meet Arizona's growing energy needs without putting pressure on our stressed water supplies.⁴

Without reductions in carbon emissions, Arizona's water supplies are at risk. The Colorado River provides roughly 40% of Arizona's water supply and faces severe risk under a warming climate with projections of 20% to 30% lower flows in the Colorado River by 2050.⁵ Water security is fundamental to Arizona's economy and its citizens' well-being. Water shortages - driven by status quo carbon emissions - would significantly impact agriculture, cities, and businesses. A clean energy future is a water secure future.

Arizona is already facing devastating wildfires, record heat and increases in heat-related deaths, and declines in safe and reliable water supplies. The Water for Arizona Coalition believes that **the state needs every tool possible to reduce climate impacts in order to continue sustainable economic growth and secure reliable water supplies for current and future generations.** HB2248/SB1175, HB2737, and SB1459 threaten to undo the progress that has been made to secure a prosperous future for Arizonans.

The Water for Arizona Coalition is comprised of Arizonans who support policies and innovative practices to ensure a reliable water supply to meet the state's needs. Collectively, we have over 60,000 Arizona members, as well as hundreds of hunter, angler, business, and outdoor recreation partners around the state. Learn more at waterforarizona.com

¹ The Energy Rules apply to regulated utilities, which excludes Salt River Project (SRP).

² Advanced Energy Economy. (2020). *U.S. Energy & Employment Report*. <https://info.aee.net/hubfs/AZ-Fact-Sheet-2020.pdf>

³ Ceres and Strategen Consulting. (2020). *Arizona Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff: 2020 Progress Report*. <https://www.ceres.org/ArizonaREST>.

⁴ Macknick, J. and Cohen, S. (2015). *Water Impacts of High Solar PV Electricity Penetration*. National Renewable Energy Lab. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/63011.pdf>

⁵ Udall, B. and Overpeck, J. (2017). *The twenty-first century Colorado River hot drought and implications for the future*, *Water Resour. Res.*, 53, 2404– 2418, doi:10.1002/2016WR019638.

