



February 17, 2024

## FIGHTING BACK AGAINST BIDEN'S LAND GRAB

As promised, I filed a lawsuit this week against Joe Biden for his unlawful seizure of nearly a million acres of land in northern Arizona last summer. Speaker Toma, State Treasurer Yee, Mohave County, Colorado City, and Fredonia are also part of the coalition aiming to terminate Biden's unilateral move designating this area as a "national monument." He has violated the 1906 Antiquities Act. Sadly, our Governor is supportive of this unlawful confiscation that promises to wreak havoc on our local and state economies, jeopardize the livelihoods of our citizens, and compromise national security, all in an attempt to score cheap political points with radical environmentalists. Democrats' end goal is to stop all mining, ranching, and other local uses of federal lands that are critical to our energy independence from adversary foreign nations, our food supply, and the strength of our economy. We look forward to prevailing in court.



*-President Warren Petersen*

## PROTECTING ARIZONA FROM ENEMY NATIONS

In an effort to protect Arizona and our citizens from attacks by adversary nations, I've sponsored SB 1123. This bill prohibits Arizona businesses or government entities from entering into contracts with companies owned or controlled by China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia- if they'd have access to our critical infrastructure. Our power grid, highways and bridges, telecommunications systems, public health resources, food supply, and other networks crucial to the day-to-day life and safety of our citizens are a prime target for foreign enemies who seek to do us harm. These countries have already launched cyberattacks on the U.S., and they're capable of much more. Their prime goal is world domination, and in order to achieve this, they must disable the U.S. and our allies. Despite Democrats voting against protecting our state and nation from these major threats, the bill passed out of committee and will soon be heard on the Senate floor for a full vote.



*-Senator Wendy Rogers*



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## HOBBS' ABUSE OF POWER TARGETS RURAL ARIZONA

In her State of the State Address, Hobbs made it clear she would work with the Legislature to enact groundwater policy. Sadly, she reneged on this commitment. I sent a letter this week to the Arizona Dept. of Water Resources urging the immediate withdrawal of her Administration's proposal for an Active Management Area designation for the Gila Bend Groundwater Basin. Circumventing the Legislature sets a dangerous and undemocratic precedent in which our citizens did not approve of. For months, I've committed time to researching and developing a tool that empowers rural Arizonans to manage, measure, conserve, and protect the groundwater within their communities for the benefit of their citizens and their local economies. Although still a work in progress, SB 1221 reflects the input of the actual water users whose voices were diminished within the Governor's Water Policy Council. Her executive action promises to have detrimental impacts on rural Arizonans.



-Senator Sine Kerr

## SUPPORTING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Asking kids to obtain a food handlers card to set up a lemonade stand is absurd, yet cities across Arizona are requiring this. I don't agree with saddling our budding innovators with red tape, so I've sponsored SB 1370, which would prohibit a municipality or county from requiring a license or permit for a business that operates occasionally by a minor or a person who has not graduated from high school. A young entrepreneur named Aiden gave a tremendous testimony in committee last week in support of this bill. I encourage you to [listen to his story](#). Despite his impressive request for support from legislators, all Democrats voted no to helping him and other child entrepreneurs like him. Although this bill passed out of the Senate this week, every Democrat also voted no on the Senate floor. It's important that we allow kids to learn how to succeed in life, instead of creating unnecessary barriers against them. Several other states, including liberal Colorado, have passed similar laws.



-Senator Shawna Bolick



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## BILLS TO SECURE YOUR RIGHTS ADVANCE

Several important bills passed out of Health & Human Services Committee of which I serve as vice-chair, that protect the rights of Arizonans. Senator Kerr's Arizona Women's Bill of Rights ensures the safety and well-being of women and girls by defining a person's sex as his or her biological sex, for all purposes of state law, to help preserve sex-specific private spaces, like locker rooms and restrooms. Two of my own, SB 1511 and SB 1407, passed out of committee as well. SB 1511 requires insurers and providers of gender-altering drugs and surgeries to also cover detransition procedures. This would ensure equal healthcare treatment for children and adults who wish to undo this damage. SB 1407 prohibits employers from discriminating against an employee based on vaccination status and would require them to allow employees a religious exemption for vaccination requirements. I'm excited to watch these bills advance. They will soon head to the Senate floor for a vote.



*-Senator Janae Shamp*

## SENATE DEMOCRATS SUPPORT RACISM

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, also known as DEI, is racism by another name. These policies and programs promote preferential treatment, or discrimination, based on the color of one's skin, their race, or ethnicity. An example of this is when an employer has two resumes in front of them, one candidate is clearly more qualified than the other because of their skills and experience, but the less qualified candidate is chosen for the job because their race is instead prioritized. This is happening right now in our universities, it's happened in our state agencies, and it's unequivocally wrong. DEI has no place in our state-funded institutions. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government, I was happy to advance SCR 1019, a ballot measure sponsored by Senator Kern, to reaffirm the state's protections against racial discrimination or racial ideologies like DEI. I'm incredibly concerned with Democrats describing this racist practice as "progress." All Democrats in committee voted in support of racism.



*-Senator Jake Hoffman*



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## THEFT & FRAUD IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

When it comes to funding public education, Arizonans should have confidence knowing their tax dollars are being spent to educate students. Unfortunately, during Monday's Joint Legislative Audit Committee, the Auditor General presented her findings from financial investigations conducted in 2023, which uncovered more than \$1.8 million in losses of taxpayer dollars. The money was illegally used to pad personal bank accounts and purchase gaming consoles, among other items, by five individuals within Arizona State University, Hyder Elementary School District, Gila Bend Unified School District, and the Department of Education. I implore Hobbs and Democrats to stop their obsessive witch hunt targeting the majority of honest families in the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, and to further scrutinize the criminal activity happening right now in public school districts and universities. *-Senator Sonny Borrelli*



## A FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

I've introduced a bill I believe will have a profound effect on mental health treatment in our state. SB 1570 would allow for psilocybin-assisted therapy for mental health. The controlled use of "magic mushrooms" has proven to be an effective treatment for people suffering from issues such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Marine Corps Veteran Bob Parsons, who founded both GoDaddy and PXG, is someone who has benefited greatly from the treatment. He testified in support of this bill in Health & Human Services Committee Tuesday. He shared his struggle with PTSD, even decades after returning home from Vietnam. I believe it's our duty to support those who put their lives on the line to serve our country. If this treatment will help our heroes struggling with their mental health following their service, then it should be offered as an option. I believe we are on the verge of something remarkable for Veterans, first responders, and other's struggling with PTSD and other mental health issues, and I am encouraged that this bill had unanimous support in committee.



*-Senator T.J. Shope*



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