



WATER, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

RICHARD SILVERMAN, *JENNINGS, STROUSS & SALMON, PLC, CHAIR*

MISSION

The Water, Energy and Natural Resources Committee promotes a vibrant and growing economy while maintaining good stewardship of our water, State Trust Lands, forests, minerals, aggregate materials, wildlife, and other natural resources. Arizona's water resources, natural resources, and critical energy infrastructure are essential to industry, the economy, and ecology of our state. The overregulation of industry imposes undue costs and needlessly jeopardizes operations that benefit Arizonans. We strive to educate the public and policy makers about Arizona's water supplies, energy infrastructure and natural resource industries to support long range planning and management.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:
Support long-range planning for critical water and energy infrastructure, including transmission corridors, power supplies, generation, storage, distribution, production, and desalination technology. Advocate for policies that promote reliability, affordability, and recognize value in the electric power grid as an asset requiring consistent maintenance, improvement, and support through investments by all of those who use and operate the grid. Support the use of securitization, a financial tool used to refinance utility assets, when appropriate, to save residential and business customers money. Support rates that equitably charge customers for their use of the grid and encourage customers to reduce strain on the electric system during high/peak-use times of the day. Support policies and investments that promote reliable electric service and that emphasize resource adequacy, price stability, and consumer protection as a foundation of Arizona's continued economic success.

PROTECT AND SUSTAIN ARIZONA'S SURFACE WATER SUPPLY:
Support protection of Arizona's water rights and entitlements in the Colorado River and elsewhere for use in Arizona. Support public policy consistent with goals of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act and efforts to increase the reliability, sustainability, drought resiliency and overall health of Arizona's surface water systems including the Colorado





River basin system and promote sensible water conservation policies, augmentation opportunities, and sound water management. Support protection of in-state surface water systems and support certainty for water rights holder through the water rights adjudication process.

EDUCATE POLICYMAKERS AND THE PUBLIC ON ARIZONA'S GROUNDWATER SUPPLY, PLANNING & MANAGEMENT: Preserve the spirit of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act which has ensured reliable water resources during drought situations. Disseminate accurate information on the importance of rural and urban groundwater to the public and businesses. Support the Arizona Department of Water Resources' (ADWR) budget, including sufficient funding to maintain a qualified and talented workforce.

PROMOTE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PINAL ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (AMA): Work with stakeholders and officials to develop reliable solutions to the unmet groundwater demand identified by ADWR in the Pinal AMA. Encourage ADWR to work with the business to development long-term solutions to the water supply issues in the Pinal AMA. A secure, long-term water supply provides the basis for investment that will facilitate new housing developments with Certificates of Assured Water (CAWS) and support Arizona's economy through new investments and job growth.

DIVERSIFY ENERGY SUPPLY: Encourage a diverse natural resource economy and energy supply including renewables, advanced nuclear, natural gas, advanced coal technologies, hydrogen, and hydro power, as well as storage technology. Support policies that further the existence and growth of

natural resources industries using science and technology, including mining, oil and gas, rock products, agriculture, ranching, timber and biomass energy. Support clean energy policies that bolster economic growth through the advancement and deployment of new and existing technologies. Oppose efforts that eliminate or limit access to natural gas.

PROMOTE HEALTHY FORESTS: Public policy should encourage and facilitate the active management and thinning of Arizona's federal and state forest lands and recognize that healthy forests are a critical economic driver and essential to maintaining a healthy watershed and providing products that are important to the energy sector.

SUPPORT STATE RIGHTS AND MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT FOR STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE LANDS: Support Arizona in defending its rights to manage private property, municipal property, and state property within federal land use designations to ensure that natural resources are incorporated into their Management Plan.

SUPPORT STATE TRUST LAND MODERNIZATION: Participate in efforts to improve State Trust Land utilization to maximize revenues to the trust for the benefit of the public schools and other beneficiaries. Proposals should be fiscally responsible, provide adequate funding for planning and management of Trust Land, provide regulatory accountability, and minimize, to the extent possible, any negative unintended consequences on business.

