



March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear CWG members and other interested parties,

SunZia's lobbying firm has developed and found a sponsor for an Arizona Senate bill (SB 1547) that would exempt large interstate transmission projects like SunZia (who have gone through the complete federal Environmental Impact Study process) from the currently required oversight by the Arizona state Line Siting Committee. The Line Siting Committee works for the Arizona Corporation Commission, presenting them with evidence regarding impacts of power plants and transmission lines, and making recommendations to the Arizona Corporation Commission about whether a project should be approved, and if so, with what conditions. The Line Siting Committee normally oversees an extensive public input process at the state level, which Sunzia is attempting to eliminate. By eliminating Line Siting Committee requirements, **SB 1547 would severely limit public input at the state level regarding large interstate transmission projects.**

For a full summary of SB 1547 go to:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/s.1547ce\\_caucus-floor.doc.htm](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/s.1547ce_caucus-floor.doc.htm)

To see how Arizona Revised Statutes would be amended:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/bills/sb1547p.htm>

SB 1547 has cleared Senate committees and will soon go to the Arizona House of Representatives. Please join us in letting your State Representatives know that you oppose such restrictions on input at the state and local level, and that you believe such large interstate transmission projects should be the subject of at least as much ARIZONA oversight as smaller in-state projects. Action from you is needed very soon, since the bill might come before the House of Representatives next week.

State representatives for District 25 (which includes most of Cochise County except Sierra Vista, southern Santa Cruz County and western Pima County) are:

Peggy Judd [pjudd@azleg.gov](mailto:pjudd@azleg.gov) phone 602-926-5836 fax 602-417-3125

David Stevens [dstevens@azleg.gov](mailto:dstevens@azleg.gov) phone 602-926-4321 fax 602-417-3146

Also, contact our District 25 Senator:

Gail Griffin [ggriffin@azleg.gov](mailto:ggriffin@azleg.gov) phone 602-926-5895 fax 602-417-3025 .Let her know that you are very disappointed by her "yes" vote in committee for SB 1547 and why.

If you live in another district, please contact your own state senator and representatives.

Some possible points to be made regarding SB 1547:

--It severely weakens states rights by forcing the Arizona Corporation Commission to depend on a federal document for information, rather than on input from Arizonans.

--It completely eliminates the investigation of the Line Siting Committee, which normally does the footwork investigating whether a transmission project of this type is good for Arizona.

--It severely curtails local public input by reducing the normally extensive Line Siting Committee process of public meetings to one public meeting before the Arizona Corporation Commission.

--It forces the Arizona Corporation Commission to depend on the federal Environmental Impact Study for most of the public input on a proposed project. The federal process as administered by the BLM for the SunZia Project, has been extremely weak in engaging those who would be most affected by this project.

--The proponents of SunZia, who are sponsoring this bill, also requested a mile-wide study corridor in their application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the express purpose of making future expansion easier. Now they are trying to curtail local input regarding what could become a massive utility corridor.

For more background on the issues surrounding SB 1547, contact:

Pearl Mast at 212-4628 or by email at [cpearlmast@gmail.com](mailto:cpearlmast@gmail.com) or

Mick Meader at 520-323-0092 or by email at [nmeader@cox.net](mailto:nmeader@cox.net)

For more information on the Cascabel Working Group and its efforts to conserve the Middle San Pedro Valley see [www.cascabelworkinggroup.org](http://www.cascabelworkinggroup.org)

Please help us prevent SunZia from evading real local public input on their project.

Thank you,

Pearl Mast

Co-chair, Cascabel Working Group

212-4628

[cpearlmast@gmail.com](mailto:cpearlmast@gmail.com)