

July 31, 2017

The Pima County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors,

I am a full professor of Natural Resources at the University of Arizona, and I was elected president of one of the oldest and largest scientific societies in North America; however, I am writing not as a representative of these organizations, but as a long-term Tucson constituent expressing interest in our community. First, I appreciate your service and hard work to our county. As a fellow government employee, I know sometimes our sacrifices are underappreciated, and I thank you for your efforts.

I understand that Pima County is considering a resolution supporting the federal Endangered Species Act. I am in wholeheartedly in support of this resolution. Pima County is recognized as an international leader in its adoption of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and its conservation of the unique habitats, animals and plants contained within the county.

The resolution correctly states that threatened and endangered species are an integral part of our ecosystems, serving particular functions within a food web. Furthermore, if these species are lost, one can never be sure of the effect on the natural community, similar to removing a rivet from an airplane. Some rivets may not be that important, while others hold on the wing. The Sonoran Desert contains a notable number of rare species, many found nowhere else on earth.

I would further argue that threatened and endangered species are not a burden on the community but an attraction. Having a rare species nearby is like your community having a rare work of art or unique attraction for people to admire. It is something special that people appreciate, and serves to help the economy. Think of how excited people are when they see or can learn about one of these species. Even the most nondescript can attract interest. For example, we did a short calculation of how threatened and endangered species helped the economy of Nye County, Nevada. People traveled to the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, in the middle of the Mojave Desert to see small rare aquatic animals (pupfishes, small insects etc.) and plants found nowhere else. The refuge at the time estimated they received over 60,000 visitors a year, and estimates were the visitors spent \$50 a day in the local community (gas, sandwiches, curios, etc.). This would have meant this one small, isolated refuge, containing nondescript species, would have attracted over \$3,000,000 to the local economy. Later analysis showed this amount of money would be equal to the 7th or 8th largest employer in Nye County.

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If this amount of interest is shown in an isolated Nevada refuge, think of the benefits of conserving rare species and habitats in Pima County. Gila topminnow, Gila chub, Southwest willow flycatcher, lesser long-nosed bat, desert pupfish, Gila topminnow, and Pima pineapple cactus and others are important components of our natural communities, our heritage, and our economy. Please recognize the importance of these plants and animals to our community by supporting the proposed resolution.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Bonar, Ph.D.

Katrina Martinez

8/1/17 ITEM NO. ADD 1 to

From: COB_mail
Subject: FW: brief statement from Chairman Edward Manuel

From: Matt Smith <matts@simginc.com>
Date: August 1, 2017 at 9:35:23 AM MST
To: Sharon Bronson <Sharon.Bronson@pima.gov>
Cc: "Maria Klucarova (Maria.Klucarova@pima.gov)" <Maria.Klucarova@pima.gov>
Subject: brief statement from Chairman Edward Manuel

Chairwoman Bronson,

The Tohono O'odham Nation applauds Pima County for its leadership role in reaffirming the critical importance of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Tohono O'odham Nation, and tribes across America, fully support these two Acts which for decades have played a key role in protecting and preserving cultural and historic places, as well as the environment and endangered species.

Federal attempts to either dilute or revoke these important Acts are unacceptable. The Tohono O'odham Nation fully supports the County's action today and stands ready to work with the County and other local governments to aggressively counter these attempts. Thank you.

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