



Shaping the Future of the West
www.sonoraninstitute.org

TUCSON, ARIZONA
BOZEMAN, MONTANA
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA
HELENA, MONTANA
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
DENVER, COLORADO
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1440 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

The Sonoran Institute is pleased to endorse the Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2009 to expand the Saguaro National Park Boundary (H.R.715). The proposed legislation would allow the federal government to acquire approximately 975 acres of private land adjacent to the current boundary of Saguaro National Park.

As the city of Tucson and Pima County continue to grow around the boundaries of the park, many adjacent private parcels are threatened with subdivision and development. Acquiring these parcels is a vital step in protecting the integrity of the natural resources within the park, which includes some of the last remaining productive riparian areas.

Expansion of the park boundary to include these properties will also serve to maintain wildlife movement corridors, and will enhance the value of existing preserved areas by ensuring connections between them.

Most importantly, all landowners included in this expansion package are supportive of the effort and are willing to be included within park boundaries.

The Sonoran Institute strongly endorses H.R. 715 and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure its passage.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss our endorsement and recommendation.

Sincerely,

Luther Propst
Executive Director

Cc: Kevin Dahl, National Parks Conservation Association

Sonoran Institute 7650 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 203 Tucson, Arizona 85710 tel 520-290-0828 fax 520-290-0969



Lynsey Gould Miller, Rincon Institute

Shaping the Future of the West
www.sonoraninstitute.org

TUCSON, ARIZONA
BOZEMAN, MONTANA
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA
HELENA, MONTANA
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
DENVER, COLORADO
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO