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Supervisors thanked for supporting Species Act

Wildlife conservation groups thanked the Pima County Board of Supervisors yesterday for supporting the Endangered Species Act in the face of efforts to weaken it.

The board, citing the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, which protects 55 species under the act, passed a resolution Aug. 15 asking Congress to uphold the act in the face of proposals to limit or change its scope .

"The Endangered Species Act has become one of the nation's most important and successful conservation laws," said Scotty Johnson, Defenders of Wildlife outreach representative.

Proposed changes would make it harder for a species to be listed as endangered, weaken habitat protection and add a 2015 expiration date to the act.

Johnson also praised U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva for supporting the Endangered Species Act.

Grijalva, chair of the Democratic Environmental Task Force, said he has seen no evidence that the public supports changing, reducing, or ending the provisions in the Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973.