

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
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August 30, 2023

Mr. Crosby Kemper  
Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services  
955 L'Enfant Plaza North  
SW, Suite 4000  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Kemper,

It is my pleasure to write this letter regarding the nomination of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for a National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Museum has been an important community partner in many of my roles over my career. As ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, and former Chair, I am very aware of the hard work and collaboration it takes to ensure the health of our environment for people today and in the future, and the Museum has been a community leader in this endeavor in Southern Arizona.

The Desert Museum has always had a strong commitment to the community, particularly in helping residents learn about and live in harmony with their natural environment. From its very beginnings, outreach to schools was a priority. The Museum's live animal school and community outreach programs continue to this day. School field trips to the Museum have also been standard for most Tucson students at some point in their education. At different points, the Museum even had TV programs for kids and adults, in partnership with local television stations. These early programs helped build a culture of respect for the environment in Tucson, even as the City grew and developed.

Over the last few decades, I worked with the Museum on the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, a landmark Multispecies Conservation Plan that has allowed the region to grow while protecting important environmental resources. The Museum was also an important partner in providing the science behind establishment of Ironwood Forest National Monument. More recently, the Museum has been leading the regional fight against invasive fire-prone grasses, which threaten both public and private lands in the region. The Museum facilitates coordination and communication among the regional federal land managers, state and local agencies, as well as some private land holders. They also help to educate, mobilize, and coordinate community volunteers to reduce fire risk and save biodiversity.

I thank you for this consideration and ask that you provide their nomination with full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress