

HB 2570 Vegetation Requirements; Prohibition



VOTE NO!

The City of Scottsdale respectfully requests that you oppose HB 2570 -

HB 2570 would remove the City of Scottsdale's important and long-established ordinances regarding native plants and how development occurs in the natural Sonoran desert environment. These smart-growth ordinances have overwhelming support of the community and provide an essential balance between protection of the desert landscape and new development.

- The City of Scottsdale adopted its Native Plant ordinance in 1981. Its purpose was to protect the slow-growing cactus and native trees that make the Sonoran Desert special. It was not intended to prohibit or even to limit development of private property, and it has not had that effect.
- HB 2570 assumes that municipalities should have no role in assuring that development respects the local native character unique to the community where people live and work.
- HB 2570 would also remove local protection of the largest and most significant saguaro cacti – many of which pre-date statehood. Under this bill, a developer would be free to destroy saguaros by simply filing notice to the state. The saguaro is the symbol most associated with the image of Arizona and should not be considered dispensable objects that can be easily replaced with other native or non-native plants.
- Because of Scottsdale's smart-growth policies, property values have remained high and tourism continues to be a strong component of the local economy. Balance has been achieved between economic growth and protection of our most valuable asset - our unique environment.
- Scottsdale is a tourism based community that is dependent on the look and feel of the Sonoran Desert which brings visitors from around the world and creates an incentive for residents and business to locate here.
- HB 2570 would overturn Scottsdale's ability to implement basic land use decisions that have been thoroughly vetted by the public and adopted by our city council.
- Scottsdale is a special place, largely in part because its natural resources are being protected and managed in a way that creates a win-win partnership between community values and private property rights.