

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 25, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

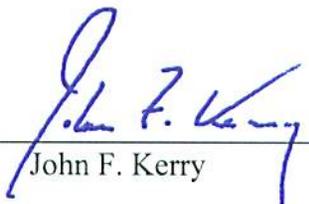
Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

We are writing to express our strong concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations that recently appeared in the Federal Register. We believe this proposal represents a significant departure from over three decades of ESA implementation. The proposed changes are inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the ESA, contradicted by federal judicial precedent, and would reduce rather than strengthen protections for imperiled fish and wildlife.

Therefore, we urge you to withdraw this proposal. If you do not do so, at a minimum the comment period must be extended; a 30-day comment period is completely inadequate and unacceptable for such a far-reaching regulatory change. A comment period of at least six months is needed to allow sufficient time for a series of public hearings around the country.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and we look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Kerry

  
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Barbara Boxer

  
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Christopher J. Dodd

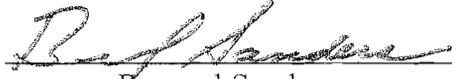
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

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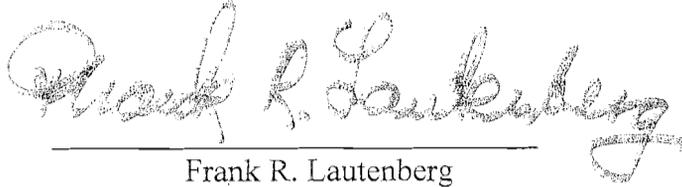
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Sheldon Whitehouse



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Bernard Sanders



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Frank R. Lautenberg