



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL**

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## **Lantos Calls on Administration to Halt Its Stealth Assault on the Environment**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) has called on the Bush Administration to stop reversing important gains in environmental protection that have been made over the decades, dating to the first Earth Day and before.

“The Administration is working to reverse years of bipartisan progress on the environment, gradually rolling back landmark legislation and undermining federal regulations,” Lantos said. “This stealth assault on our air, water and land must stop.”

For example, Lantos said, when Congress passed amendments to the Clean Air Act more than ten years ago to limit harmful air pollution emitted from thousands of power plants, it required any plants that undergo modernization to reduce their emissions. The Administration now proposes to relax these rules and let some of our oldest power plants convert without reducing harmful emissions.

The Administration also proposes to open the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to explore for oil. Just as he has defended the California coastline against drilling, Lantos opposes drilling or even looking for oil in the ANWR and other places that need protection most.

Lantos noted that the Bush Administration is the first to abandon the principle that the polluter pays for “Superfund” toxic waste clean-ups. Using polluter-paid fees, the Superfund Trust Fund used to cover the cost of most of such clean-ups. By contrast, during the past three years the Trust Fund has been allowed to be depleted to nothing, shifting major costs to the U.S. taxpayer.

“Earth Day provides a reminder of our collective responsibility to preserve our natural resources,” Lantos said. “Many already are aware how precious our environment is. But for those who are not, or who are prepared to trade away this precious legacy for commercial interests, a strong reminder – even a rebuke – is needed. As we commemorate Earth Day tomorrow, I urge everyone to raise their voices in defense of the environment, so they are heard in the White House and beyond.”

For his consistent efforts to protect the environment, Lantos has earned 95 points out of 100 on the latest Congressional Scorecard released by the League of Conservation Voters.

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