

## This Week in Washington

### Pombo "Outraged" by Corporate Criminals

Congressman Richard Pombo today commented on the recent WorldCom hearing and President Bush's address on corporate accountability.

"I'm outraged by the sight of corporate executives raiding their company for multi-million dollar bonuses right before their company folds, and then pleading the Fifth to Congress," Pombo stated. "As far as I'm concerned, crooks in the boardroom are no different than crooks in a hold-up. They all deserve to go to jail."

The House has already taken action against fraudulent business and accounting practices, approving the Pension Security Act (H.R. 3762) and the Corporate and Auditing Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency Act (H.R. 3763), both supported by Congressman Richard Pombo. "The Senate has failed to act," Pombo noted. "Its time for Senator Daschle to quit playing politics and work in a bipartisan manner with the President and the House."

"I applaud President Bush for his forceful remarks today, and I am confident that his words will be followed by strong federal action," he added.

#### President Bush's ten-point plan that will improve corporate responsibility and help protect America's shareholders:

- Each investor should have quarterly access to the information needed to judge a firm's financial performance, condition, and risks.
- Each investor should have prompt access to critical information.
- CEOs should personally vouch for the veracity, timeliness, and fairness of their companies' public disclosures, including their financial statements.
- CEOs or other officers should not be allowed to profit from erroneous financial statements.
- CEOs or other officers who clearly abuse their power should lose their right to serve in any corporate leadership positions.
- Corporate leaders should be required to tell the public promptly whenever they buy or sell company stock for personal gain.
- Investors should have complete confidence in the independence and integrity of companies' auditors.
- An independent regulatory board should ensure that the accounting profession is held to the highest ethical standards.
- Authors of accounting standards must be responsive to the needs of investors.
- Firms' accounting systems should be compared with best practices, not simply against minimum standards.

### Will environmentalists take the heat for fires?

Amid horrible wildfires in the West, a research arm of Congress now says its original estimates last year were far too low about how often environmental groups appeal and delay timber cuts to remove excess fuel -- and prevent small fires from becoming holocausts.

In fact, it now says environmental groups appear to delay about half of such projects, instead of a mere 1 percent as it reported last year.

That vast change comes because the U.S. General Accounting Office, has redefined and narrowed what types of projects it includes to calculate that number, according to a letter it sent to the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. That affects a blame game between President Bush and environmental groups over why excess fuel has not been cleared from more forests. Bush said much of the problem comes from delays caused by environmental groups opposing timber cuts.

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### Today in History

**1862** - The U.S. Congress authorized the Medal of Honor.

**1864** - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln became the first standing president to witness a battle as Union forces repelled Jubal Early's army on the outskirts of Washington, DC.

**1931** - A major league baseball record for doubles was set as the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs combined for a total of 23.

**1933** - A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was established in the U.S.

**1937** - Bill Cosby was born

**1954** - Elvis Presley signed his first recording contract and quit his job as a truck driver.

**1954** - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a highway modernization program.

**1954** - The Major League Baseball Players Association was organized in Cleveland, OH.

**1984** - Dem. presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale named U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro to be his running mate.

**1990** - Russian republic president Boris N. Yeltsin announced his resignation from the Soviet Communist Party.

**1993** - 196 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter Scale struck northern Japan.

*From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)*

## This Week in Washington cont.

### Pombo Applauds Passage of ESA Bill

This week in the House Committee on Resources, H.R. 4840, the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002, gained passage. The legislation, authored in part by Congressman Richard Pombo, was approved by a 22-18 margin.

"Passage of this bill is an attempt to ensure that the agencies charged with implementing the Endangered Species Act base their decisions on sound, peer-reviewed science," Pombo stated. "The Act is failing to protect and recover species, and is a major source of conflict with property owners. We hope this bill begins the process of resolving the shortcomings of the current law."

Examples of the lack of sound science given by Pombo included:

- Federal officials from the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife intentionally planted hair from the threatened Canadian Lynx in a national forest on three separate occasions in order to impose sweeping land management regulations.
- Don Fife, an scientist specializing in environmental mining and engineering geology, had plants listed under ESA secretly placed on his property in an attempt to close 30,000 acres of valuable mineral land in southern California.
- The comments by a high ranking National Marine Fisheries Service official in regards to implementing the ESA, "when we (NMFS) make critical habitat designation, we just designate everything as critical, without an analysis of how much habitat an ESU (Evolutionarily Significant Unit) needs, what areas might be key, etc. Mostly we don't do this because we lack information. What we really do is the same thing for section 7 consultations. We just say we need it all."

### 400,000 acres kept from developers for snake

A federal judge has ruled against California builders in favor of preserving more than 400,000 acres of East Bay grasslands designated by the government as critical for the survival of the fast-moving Alameda whipsnake.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must keep in place a rule that controls new development that might harm the slender 3-foot snake or its habitat in parts of rural Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Joaquin counties, the judge decided last week.

The ruling by Judge Anthony W. Ishii of the U.S. District Court in Fresno ends the latest in a series of lawsuits filed against Fish and Wildlife by the construction and timber industries challenging habitat protections under the U. S. Endangered Species Act.

After home-building and construction industry groups sued last year, Fish and Wildlife agreed that the economic analysis used to set aside land to help the whipsnake recover was inadequate and petitioned to vacate its own designation to settle the suit.

In doing so, the agency cited a 2001 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver, which struck down the method it used in preparing the cost analysis for providing habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher.

But Ishii noted that his court is within the Ninth Circuit and that the Denver court's decision for the 10th Circuit doesn't hold sway. If the agency wants to rescind its habitat for the whipsnake, it can amend its ruling or ask the court to evaluate the designation -- but not by citing the 10th Circuit.

The plaintiffs are considering settling the case or asking the judge to review whether the designation is legal, said David Haddock, a lawyer with the Pacific Legal Foundation, a nonprofit law firm in Sacramento.

*Reprinted from the Chronicle Environment*

### Weekly Quote

"We can no longer stand idle while endangered species are left with little protection and individuals are pressed with enormous costs. Together, we must form a common-sense means of saving our precious endangered species."

- Rep. Richard W. Pombo  
Chairman, Western Caucus

### Wordsmith

#### hab·i·tat

**Pronunciation:** 'ha-b&-"tat

**Function:** noun

**Etymology:** Latin, it inhabits, from habitare

**Date:** 1796

1 a : the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows b : the typical place of residence of a person or a group c : a housing for a controlled physical environment in which people can live under surrounding inhospitable conditions (as under the sea)

2 : the place where something is commonly found

*Reprinted from m-w.com*

### By the Numbers

The number of threatened species recovered from the Endangered Species Act since 1973:

**31**  
out of  
**1,259**

*Reprinted from m-w.com*

## Comments from the District

"Rail travel is a great way to see our beautiful, huge, awesome country." - **Jarilyn DeOliveira** - 6/24/02

"Pledging allegiance to our flag is the symbol of brotherhood no matter what race, sex, or if you believe in God or not." - **Carol Eads** - 6/27/02

"I would like to express my disapproval of the Cabinet Level Department of Homeland Security." - **Jeffery Esteves** - 6/21/02

"Those who come here are here because of our freedoms and should respect these inalienable rights." - **James Hackney** - 6/28/02

"I am outraged that any American would want to change what has made this country great." - **Dora Hensley** - 6/27/02

"Every time when a pay raise comes up for the military they usually receive next to nothing of a raise." - **Thomas Hird** - 6/24/02

"Isn't the desire for religious freedom one of the reasons this country was founded in the beginning? By making more and more laws narrowly defining our existence, we will soon be paralyzed." - **Anne Jacobs** - 6/26/02

"In a time in our nation where we should be standing together as one nation, what kind of image is this court sending to the rest of the world." - **Christine Johnson** - 6/27/02

"Even more important is the need to have an operating passenger rail service in time of emergency to get troops moved around the country. Even members of Congress would need Amtrak if the airlines get grounded again." - **Richard Larsen** - 6/24/02

"As an R.N., I am writing to advise you of my strong opposition to partial-birth abortion and to urge you to ban this horrific procedure." - **Glenda MacDonald** - 6/21/02

"I believe as a retired military office who still supports our nation as a consultant, that it is high time for our legislature to review and change the way that the national judges are selected and are allowed to remain in office after selection." - **Paul Nadon** - 6/27/02

"The First Amendment plainly says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." You are flaunting your disregard of the Constitution by condemning the 9th Circuit Court's decision." - **John Ottenhoff** - 6/27/02

"The millions who have inadequate or no drug coverage desperately need help now." - **James Pennington** - 6/26/02

"Please stop the 9th Circuit Court. Yes, I am a Christian,, but that does not mean that I forfeit my rights as an American citizen." - **Michaels Sanderson** - 6/29/02

"Let's not fight over the Pledge of Allegiance. Let's keep it neutral. You can pledge allegiance to God at home." - **Michael Owens** - 6/27/02

"Please support legislation providing an above-the-line tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums." - **Nancy Slatten** - 6/17/02

"I believe that any policy that threatens to fine honest and good faith reporting employers will undermine national security by encouraging the invisible population residing and working in our country." - **Craig Thompson** - 6/28/02

"Congress has the power to keep the Judicial branch in line and I expect you to represent all the God fearing people in your district." - **Ronald Thompson** - 6/26/02

"I strongly urge you to support the Arafat Accountability Act which will firmly reinforce our President's call to hold the Palestinian Authority accountable." - **Nicholas Yasonia-Murphy** - 6/25/02

"We would not be abandoning the ideals of this country by taking out the words "in God." We would simply be more encompassing and accommodating to all Americans." - **Willa Zhen** - 6/27/02

*You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here:*  
<http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2002/board2002.htm>