

 **Environmentalists Campaign Against Alito,
Fearing Nation's Pollution and
Health Laws at Risk**

*Interview with Glenn Sugameli,
attorney with Earthjustice,
conducted by Melinda Tuhus*

As the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court concluded, most of the reporting focused on Alito's views about abortion and presidential power. But environmental groups are also troubled by some of Judge Alito's rulings on environmental protection during his 15 years judicial career. Four of the nation's leading environmental organizations were so alarmed, that for the first time in 20 years, they publicly opposed a Supreme Court nominee.

Activists say that Alito's views indicate that he would, under the Commerce Clause, support challenges to environmental regulations by polluters and developers. Among the laws they fear Alito would help overturn or weaken include the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act the Endangered Species Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Between The Lines' Melinda Tuhus spoke with Glenn Sugameli, senior legislative counsel with Earthjustice, a law firm that defends the interests of individuals and environmental groups in court against violations of the nation's environmental laws. He discusses why environmental activists oppose Judge Alito's confirmation and what they are doing about it.

Contact Earthjustice by calling (202) 667-4500 or visit their website at www.earthjustice.org.

Sound bite: <http://www.btonline.org/sugameli012706.ram>