

Kansas City Infozone

Kansas City, MO

January 10, 2006

Imperial Presidency Fears, Environmental Groups' First Opposition Since Bork

The U.S. Environmental Groups' First Opposition Since Bork

Sara Zdeb is legislative director with Friends of the Earth. She said yesterday: "Friends of the Earth joins our partners in the environmental community in announcing our opposition to the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Samuel Alito. Our announcement marks the first time that environmental organizations have opposed a Supreme Court nominee since the 1987 nomination of Robert Bork -- underscoring just how big of a threat we believe Judge Alito poses to our environment. ... When it comes to the constitutional questions that will determine the ability of Congress to pass environmental laws and the ability of citizens to access courts to enforce them, Judge Alito threatens to

drive the Court in a decidedly anti-environment direction. ... Judge Alito's record indicates that he's likely to side with those who oppose a strong Clean Water Act. His record also bodes poorly for future cases challenging the Endangered Species Act and other important laws. Judge Alito has also voted to shut courthouse doors to citizens concerned about their environment."

Glenn Sugameli is senior judicial counsel of Earthjustice. He said yesterday: "Judge Alito's record indicates that he would pursue his own extreme legal theories to create new barriers that prevent the enactment and enforcement of national laws that protect families and communities from pollution."