

PROPERTY RIGHTS: LOTT HOLDS OFF ON BILL FOR THIS SESSION

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) on 9/6 told several interest groups that he has decided not to bring up before the end of this legislative session a property rights bill that would compensate landowners for value lost due to federal regulations.

In announcing his decision, Lott cited the Senate's busy calendar and a lack of votes to overcome an anticipated Democrat-led filibuster. Lott had formerly included the latest version of the property rights legislation, introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) in 7/96, among a list of measures he wanted the Senate to act on this session (GREENWIRE, 7/19).

Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) said earlier last week that he hoped the measure would still come up for cloture vote "to allow the electorate to see who is with it and who isn't."

Glenn Sugameli of the National Wildlife Federation called Lott's abandonment of the bill a "major victory" (GREENWIRE sources). Meanwhile, Defenders of Property Rights Pres. Nancie Marzulla vowed to push the original version of the legislation in the 105th Congress. Marzulla: "We're talking now about it being S. 1" (CQ MONITOR, 9/9).