

# RepublicanAmerican

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Letter to the Editor

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## ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY ROBERTS, ALITO NOT SO EXEMPLARY

The Jan. 19 editorial “A checkered presidency” opines President Bush’s nominations of John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court “were exemplary; both are thoughtful justices with an abiding respect for the Constitution.”

Roberts and Alito repeatedly have misread statutes and undermined or ignored the remedial purpose of laws concerning clean water, clean air, civil rights and other matters.

This disturbing trend is illustrated by the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, cosponsored by every Connecticut representative and senator. Alito’s bare majority opinion in *Ledbetter vs. Goodyear Tire*, joined by Roberts, unjustifiably barred equal-pay claims filed after concealed long-term pay discrimination is revealed.

A jury found Goodyear had violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for almost 20 years by paying Ledbetter substantially less than men with the same job and seniority.

Alito’s opinion denied Ledbetter’s claim because it had not been filed within 180 days of the initial intentional discrimination, even though the effects continued and she had not learned of the pay disparity until very recently. This shielded companies that conceal pay discrimination from claims for paychecks issued years before pay disparities are uncovered.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s dissent explained Goodyear “kept salaries confidential ... the court does not comprehend, or is indifferent to, the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination.”

Unfortunately, the *Ledbetter* ruling is part of a pattern. As *The Houston Chronicle* explained, the court has “routinely sided with business interests” over individual rights “in cases involving cigarette manufacturers, automakers, the Exxon Valdez oil spill ... and a whole slew of decisions denying protections to the disabled.”

**Glenn Sugameli**

Washington, D.C.

*The writer is senior judicial counsel for Earthjustice, a nonprofit public-interest law firm.*