

# National Journal's Congress DailyAM

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## **Environment:**

### **Environmentalists Launch Campaign Against Bush Nominees**

By John Stanton

Environmentalists Monday announced a new coalition effort to block President Bush's judicial nominees from taking up positions in the federal court system, charging the administration is using the nomination process to stack the deck against existing environmental protections.

The coalition will bring together a number of key Democratic pressure groups, including environmentalists, women's rights groups, labor unions and civil rights activists.

Environmentalists charge the White House has appointed a host of politically motivated lawyers and lower court judges to fill positions on a number of the nation's appeals courts.

For instance, activists attacked Bush's nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals, arguing he has questioned the legitimacy of the Clean Water Act in the past.

Activists also charged that Bush's pick for a 9th Circuit vacancy, Carolyn Kuhn, would work to limit environmental protections, complaining Kuhn has argued before the Supreme Court in favor of limiting the ability of organizations similar to most environmental groups to bring claims in a federal court.

Although environmentalists have long been active in judicial nominations, activists said the new partnership signals the beginning of a significantly ramped-up campaign. **An attorney with Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, which has sparred with the Bush administration over several of its administrative and judicial nominations, said environmentalists over the next several months would weigh in on most court nominations made by the White House.** By John Stanton