

# Waste News

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## Senators Block Bush Judicial Nomination, Calling Nominee Anti-Environmental

Senate Democrats blocked a confirmation vote for a Bush-administration judicial nominee, accusing the former Interior Department official of being anti-environmental.

Republicans, meanwhile, defended the nomination of William Myers for the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and criticized Democrats for "obstructionist filibuster tactics" and courting the favor of environmentalists during an election year.

Senate Republicans needed 60 votes to end a procedural hurdle that blocked a straight up-or-down vote on Myers' nomination -- but the final vote was 53-44, making Myers the seventh judicial nominee blocked by Senate Democrats.

"For 22 years, Mr. Myers has been an outspoken antagonist of long-established environmental protections, usually wearing the hat of a paid lobbyist for industry," said Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and an opponent of Myers' nomination.

Environmental groups including **Earthjustice** and the Sierra Club applauded the Senate for blocking the confirmation vote.

President Bush issued a statement praising his nominee's career as a public servant and attorney and said opponents had denied him a simple up-or-down vote on his nomination.

"I continue to call on the minority in the Senate to stop playing politics with the American judicial system and give judicial nominees the fair treatment they deserve and the American people expect," Bush said.