



THE WEEKLY CLOSER

U.S. SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“Law enforcement agencies have made some important arrests in recent years, yet they still face difficulties tracking down these thugs -- who operate in underground cells linked to organizations such as the Earth Liberation Front or Animal Liberation Front. Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe last year introduced legislation to give authorities more tools to prosecute ecoterrorists; current statutes don't cover many ecoterrorist activities, such as threats or coercion against third-party targets. The sooner Congress takes this up the better, and more news coverage of their widespread threats and violence wouldn't hurt either.”

“Terrorists, by Any Name”
Review & Outlook
The Wall Street Journal
January 25, 2006

INHOFE APPLAUDS 65-COUNT ECOTERROR INDICTMENT

Local and Federal Law Enforcement Officials Deserve Strong Praise for Diligence in Ongoing Efforts to Curb Most Dangerous Domestic Terror Threat

Last week, Chairman Inhofe applauded the 65-count indictment handed down by a Federal grand jury in Eugene, Ore. against 11 defendants accused of committing acts of domestic terrorism in Oregon, Wyoming, Washington, California, and Colorado from 1996 through 2001. According to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), the indictment alleges that the defendants were acting on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). To date, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, under Chairman Inhofe's direction, has held two hearings on ecoterrorism ([May 18, 2005](#) and [October 26, 2005](#)).

“I am very pleased with the dedication and diligence shown by local and Federal law enforcement officials in pursuing these extremists and gathering the evidence that ultimately led to the indictment,” Chairman Inhofe said. “FBI counter-terror experts have warned time and again that ecoterror is the most dangerous domestic terror threat our nation faces, and I applaud our Federal agents' ongoing efforts in cracking down on groups like ALF, ELF and SHAC in the name of protecting property and saving lives.”

“We can be doing much more on Capitol Hill to provide law enforcement with the tools they need to pursue and prosecute not only ecoterrorists, but foreign terrorist cells as well. I hope we can act this year to pass legislation I introduced last fall in consultation with Federal law enforcement, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which will enhance our ability to prevent future activities, and to better investigate and prosecute ecoterror cases.”

“It is critical to recognize the distinctions between constitutionally protected advocacy and violent, criminal activity. It is one thing to write concerned letters or hold peaceful demonstrations. It is another thing entirely, to construct and use improvised explosive or incendiary devices, to harass and intimidate innocent victims by damaging or destroying property, or other threatening acts.”

John Lewis
Deputy Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Full EPW Committee Hearing on Ecoterrorism
October 26, 2005

According to last Friday’s statement from USDOJ, the indictment refers to attacks on 17 sites:

- Oct. 28, 1996, at the U.S. Forest Service Detroit Ranger Station in Marion County, Ore.;
- Oct. 30, 1998, at the U.S. Forest Service Oakridge Ranger Station in Lane County, Ore.;
- July 21, 1997, at the Cavel West, Inc. meat packing company in Deschutes County, Ore.;
- Nov. 30, 1997, at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Facility in Harney County, Ore.;
- June 21, 1997, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Wildlife Facility in Olympia, Wash.;
- Oct. 11, 1998, at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Holding Facility in Rock Springs, Wyo.;
- Oct. 19, 1998, at the Vail Ski Facility in Vail, Colo.;
- Dec. 27, 1998, at U.S. Forest Industries in Jackson County, Ore.;
- May 9, 1999, at Childers Meat Company in Lane County, Ore.;
- Dec. 25, 1999, at the Boise Cascade office in Polk County, Ore.;
- Dec. 30, 1999, at a Bonneville Power Administration high-tension power line tower near Bend, Ore.;
- Sept. 6, 2000, at the Eugene Police Department West University Public Safety Station in Eugene, Ore.;

- Jan. 2, 2001, at the Superior Lumber Company in Douglas County, Ore.;
- March 30, 2001, at Joe Romania Chevrolet Truck Center in Eugene, Ore.;
- May 21, 2001, at Jefferson Poplar Farms in Columbia County, Ore.;
- May 21, 2001, at the University of Washington Horticultural Center in Seattle; and
- Oct. 15, 2001, at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Facility in Litchfield, Calif.

Additional Online Resources:

- [October 26, 2005 – Full EPW Committee Hearing on Ecoterror \(SHAC\)](#)
 - [Video Archive](#)
- [May 18, 2005 – Full EPW Committee Hearing on Ecoterror \(ALF/ELF\)](#)
 - [Video Archive](#)

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IN THE NEWS...

What They're Saying About the Kyoto Protocol's Failure

“The U.S. dropped its signature from Kyoto because arbitrary emissions targets are both pointless and economically damaging. No proof exists that lower emissions reduce global warming. The idea that human activity influences climate change one way or another is far from proven, given the overwhelming role nature itself plays in atmospheric changes. And if the warming trend of recent decades continues -- by no means a certainty -- it might well be a boon to humanity.”

“Kyoto’s Big Con”
Review & Outlook
The Wall Street Journal
January 19, 2006

“‘Greenpeace says we can phase out fossil fuels and nuclear energy, and not build any more hydro dams, and do the whole thing with windmills and solar panels. Not possible.’ In fact, [Greenpeace co-founder and former activist Patrick Moore says], radical environmentalists have hindered any progress toward meeting the Kyoto Protocol’s emissions targets because of their opposition to nuclear and other conventional non-greenhouse gas-emitting

power sources. 'It's the environmental movement that's actually a major obstacle to the realistic achievement of carbon dioxide reductions around the world because they oppose all the reasonable alternatives,' he said."

"Ex-Greenpeace Founder Touts Nuclear Energy"

Bruce Johnstone

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

January 19, 2006

"Canada agreed with more than 30 industrialized nations in 1997 to curb emissions by five per cent below 1990 levels by 2012, but Canada's emissions have actually grown since then and now stand at 24 per cent above 1990 levels. Emissions in the U.S. -- a country prime minister Paul Martin has attacked for lacking a conscience on Kyoto -- have only risen by 13 per cent. The Liberal government's failure on the Kyoto file was predictable. Goals cannot be achieved if they are not realistic. The pie-in-the sky targets the Liberals committed to could cost this country 450,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector alone and could reduce Canada's GDP growth by 2.5 per cent, according to some estimates."

"After Kyoto: A Chance for Better Air"

Editorial

Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 19, 2006

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

The Wall Street Journal

Review & Outlook

Terrorists, by Any Name

January 25, 2006

Osama bin Laden's latest tape was such big news last week that its coverage swamped some other major terror news: that the Bush Administration has rounded up some of America's most dangerous domestic terrorists.

The Justice Department on Friday released a 65-count indictment against 11 members of an animal-rights and ecoterrorism outfit that for more than four years had spread violence and destruction across five Western states. Using fire and explosives, the individuals stand accused of targeting ranger stations, animal-holding facilities, lumber companies, timber farms, a ski resort and even a police department. Eight have been detained; another three are believed to be hiding outside the country.

Credit here goes to the FBI, which in recent years has listed green extremists as a top domestic terror threat -- responsible for more than 1,200 criminal acts and millions of dollars in damage. In recent years these outfits have been expanding their scope, targeting bodies that are only marginally linked to practices they resent. The New York Stock Exchange's recent decision to postpone the listing of Huntingdon Life Sciences -- a U.K. animal-research

company that has been a top terrorist target for years -- was put down to the Exchange's worry that it would be next on the hit list.

Law enforcement agencies have made some important arrests in recent years, yet they still face difficulties tracking down these thugs -- who operate in underground cells linked to organizations such as the Earth Liberation Front or Animal Liberation Front. Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe last year introduced legislation to give authorities more tools to prosecute ecoterrorists; current statutes don't cover many ecoterrorist activities, such as threats or coercion against third-party targets. The sooner Congress takes this up the better, and more news coverage of their widespread threats and violence wouldn't hurt either.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the editorial.

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Editorial

Terrorism: Criminal nature

January 19, 2006

When one justifies any kind of terrorism, approving or rejecting more is just a matter of quibbling about details. There's no philosophical difference between approving the torching of a large new home on Camano Island or the targeting of the tallest towers in Manhattan.

It's heartening to see the FBI closing in on Americans who commit acts of violence in the name of environmental protection. Recent arrests indicate the FBI has begun to develop a much better understanding of the secretive ranks of so-called ecoterrorist groups. Crime sprees committed in the name of activist groups have taken an increasing toll on property and the public sense of community, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. And arson runs the continual risk of claiming human lives. ...

Like other criminals, ecoterrorists have decided their desires take precedence over others' rights. Law enforcement agencies and the public need to confront such arrogant, vicious thinking, whether it originates abroad or at home.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the editorial.

Bill Holbrook, Communications Director
Matt Dempsey, Deputy Press Secretary