



January 23, 2013

Mr. Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
18th and "C" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Cynthia Dohner, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Janet Mizzi Chief, Division of Species and Habitat Assessment
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On April 20, 2010, the Center for Biological Diversity and allies petitioned for Endangered Species Act protection for 404 aquatic, riparian, and wetland species from the southeastern United States including the Seepage Salamander (*Desmognathus aeneus*). On September 27, 2011, the Service issued a positive 90-day finding for 374 of the species in the petition (76 FR 59836).

In light of new scientific information, we are writing to withdraw the Seepage Salamander from the petition. With this letter we are submitting a recent study (Graham et al. 2012) indicating that *D. aeneus* is secure over the majority of its range. We are therefore no longer seeking federal protection for this species.

On behalf of all petitioners,

Tierra R. Curry, M.S.
Conservation Biologist
Center for Biological Diversity
PO Box 11374
Portland, OR 97211
tcurry@biologicaldiversity.org