

RICHARD G. LUGAR  
INDIANA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-4814

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COMMITTEES:  
FOREIGN RELATIONS, RANKING MEMBER  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

September 10, 2008

Public Comment Processing ATTN: 1018-AT50  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Pouch and Directives Management  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

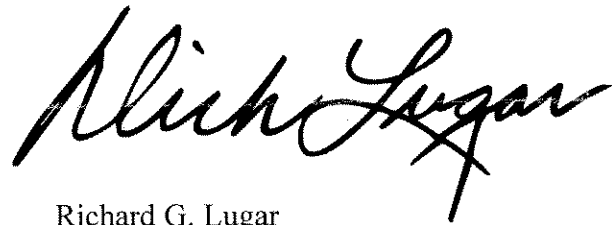
Dear Sir/Madam:

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications,  
your consideration of the attached is requested.

Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with the return of the enclosure, will be  
greatly appreciated. Please direct your reply to the attention of Darlee McCollum of my  
Washington office.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator

RGL/cgd  
Enclosure

**Mission Statement**

The Indianapolis Zoo  
inspires local and global  
communities to celebrate,  
protect, and preserve our  
natural world through  
conservation, education,  
and research, and by  
providing an enriching and  
wondrous environment  
for our visitors and the  
animals in our care.

indianapoliszoo.com

**Indianapolis Zoo**

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August 29, 2008

08 AUG 31 PM 7:36

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

You may be aware that the Bush Administration has published a proposed rule in the Federal Register which would, if finalized, have a significant effect on how government agencies conduct Federal projects and activities as they relate to endangered species and critical habitat.

The comment period for this proposal has been set for 30 days, which is unusually short given the magnitude of this rule. On behalf of the Indianapolis Zoo, a Hoosier institution with more than 100,000 individual members and a mission focused on protecting the sustainability of wild things and wild places, I respectfully request a 90-day extension to the comment period for the proposed rule on interagency cooperation under the Endangered Species Act published in the Federal Register on August 15, 2008. The current deadline for comments is September 15, 2008.

**For one of our nation's most vital and successful environmental laws, the current 30-day comment period is far too short for the general public to sufficiently review and comment constructively on this critical proposal.** We urge you to extend the comment period to allow adequate time to address the breadth and depth that these proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act regulations could have on protecting the public heritage of our most imperiled wildlife. In our case, this extension would allow organizations such as ours and the associations representing us to offer more thoughtful, concise and beneficial comments to the Departments of Commerce and Interior.

In addition, we respectfully urge you to request that the Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce hold public hearings around the country to give citizens the opportunity to learn, understand and comment on the proposed changes directly. The remarkable success of our nation's accredited zoos and aquariums confirms that millions of people across our country have converged on our obligation to protect wildlife for future generations, and they deserve a voice in the process of considering changes to such a fundamental law.

Thank you for your considerate attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Michael I. Crowther  
President & CEO  
Indianapolis Zoo

