

✖ Does anyone want to be Secretary of Commerce? First [Bill Richardson](#) stepped aside [under a cloud](#). Today, nominee #2 [Judd Gregg](#) (about whom [Cymie](#) and [I](#) blogged earlier) withdrew his name, [saying he disagreed too strongly](#) with President Obama to take the position.

Still, fans of the Department's environmental arm, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), can take heart. The [Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation](#) held a hearing this morning ([webcast here](#)) on the nomination of [Jane Lubchenco](#) to take over NOAA's helm. Lubchenco has been a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grantee, a member of the Pew Oceans Commission, a former president of the [Ecological Society of America](#), and one of the founders of the [Aldo Leopold Leadership Program](#). Even if the Department doesn't get a Secretary for some time, NOAA will be in good hands.