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

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