

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: R. T. Bowyer, V. Brack, Jr., R. W. Kays, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, T. J. O'Shea, E. A. Rickart, R. Rodriguez, S. R. Sheffield, D. W. Sparks (Chair) W. T. Stanley, C. W. Thompson, E. W. Valdez.

Mission:

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes. The committee also interacts with the legislative monitoring groups of AIBS.

Information Items:

(1) As with last year, an effective deadlock continues to exist between the US House of Representatives and the White House. As such, there has been much rhetoric on Capitol Hill, but little change in the major environmental laws of the US. However, this inaction continues to have a variety of impacts on mammals. Below is a list of issues of concern to the committee:

- (a) Production tax credits (federal incentives provided to encourage development) were re-authorized for the wind industry.
- (b) Hydraulic fracturing continues to expand areas that can be exploited for gas and oil development. These developments continue to be an important issue for the Society because of the sheer scale of development
- (c) A concerted effort is underway to reduce the ability of federal employees and their parent agencies to participate in or sponsor scientific meetings. Letters were prepared by the committee and sent to the White House, and ranking members of Congress by President Heske.
- (d) The committee is working with other professional societies to reduce problems related to the transport of CITES-listed species into the United States for legitimate scientific study.
- (e) Sequestration is severely affecting all federal employees including environmental regulators. The committee is concerned that slow turn-around times on permit requests may lead some applicants to ignore regulations especially on smaller components of large projects.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale W. Sparks, Chair
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