Environment

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Ruckelshaus Raps 'Costly' Pollution Laws

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief William Ruckelshaus says the agency has forced private enterprise and local governments to spend millions of dollars on projects of little public benefit.

Ruckelshaus, now vice president of the Weyerhaeuser Co., Tacoma, made the comments while campaigning for state Sen. John Mutz, R-Indianapolis, a candidate for lieutenant governor.

He said some key environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, were made without proper research or rationalization.

"It was clear to me after being there 80 days it was going to come back to haunt a number of states," Ruckelshaus said. "I am convinced the Clear Air Act and the Clean Water Act and a number of the environmental laws passed in the early '70s at the height of the emotion about the environmental movement badly need rationalizing.

"We should not abandon the goals of public health and protecting the environment, but we need to rationalize, to make it work better."

Ruckelshaus said some of the environmental laws make no sense and should be amended. "We are forcing the private level and the municipal level into the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars for no public benefit," he said.