

Strong

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Opposition**To Hathaway**

Washington

Citing his "dismal" environmental record," a coalition of conservation groups launched campaign yesterday against President Ford's reported plan to nominate former Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway to be Secretary of the Interior.

The White House announced Thursday that Mr. Ford was naming the present interior secretary, Rogers C. B. Morton, to be secretary of commerce. At the same time, Administration sources said Hathaway was Mr. Ford's choice to succeed Morton. White House spokesmen refused yesterday to say when, or if, Hathaway's nomination would be announced.

The telegram to Mr. Ford, signed by representatives of eight environmental and conservation groups, said that Hathaway, in his two terms as Wyoming's governor, "was strongly for rapid development of the state's natural resources, heedless of the impacts of such development upon the land and people of Wyoming and heedless of the need for conservation of public resources."

In what the coalition called "a bill of particulars," the telegram added:

"He invited the coal and oil industries to come and lay waste to Wyoming; he favored strip mining; he advocated over-development of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, including the expansion of the airport in Grand Teton park; he opposed establishment of wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers; and he consistently supported all-out development instead of wise land use."

The telegram contended that Hathaway followed "blindly pro-development policies" and displayed a "pro-industry bias."

Signing the telegram were officials of the Wilderness Society, Environmental Action, Environmental Policy Center, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Friends of the Earth, the Fund for Animals, Sierra Club and Animal Protection Institute.