

PRESS RELEASE

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Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Files Motion to Intervene in Suit Challenging Texas's Dunes Sagebrush Lizard Conservation Plan

Washington, DC—Susan Combs, in her official capacity as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, today filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife and Center for Biological Diversity against the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Defenders of Wildlife v. Jewell*, No. 13-cv-00919RC). This suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, challenges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's withdrawal of a proposal to include the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard on the endangered species list. At bottom, however, the lawsuit challenges the Texas Conservation Plan, which balances the interests of endangered species protection with protection of the Texas economy.

“We are pleased to represent the Texas Comptroller in this litigation, where such important interests are at stake,” said Nancie Marzulla, lead counsel for the Texas Comptroller. “Striking a balance was critical since the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard habitat includes much of the Permian Basin, the heart of Texas's oil country. The Permian Basin region accounts for 57% of Texas's oil production and supports 47,000 jobs in the oil and gas industries.”

For a copy of the motion and memorandum in support, visit www.marzulla.com. Nancie G. Marzulla and Roger J. Marzulla have decades of experience in representing plaintiffs in high-stakes, complex environmental litigation in federal court, including Endangered Species Act claims. U.S. News & World Report ranks Marzulla Law nationally as a Tier One firm for Environmental Litigation.