

## News

## Airey Quoted in *Columbus Business First* Story Titled “Northern Long-Eared Bat Declared Threatened, Not Endangered, In Win for Drillers”

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Jon Airey, an attorney in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the energy group, was quoted in a *Columbus Business First* story titled “Northern Long-Eared Bat Declared Threatened, Not Endangered, In Win for Drillers.” The story was about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to classify the northern long-eared bat as a “threatened” species. According to the story, the government came to this determination because a deadly fungal disease called white-nose syndrome, has killed millions of the bats.

### The story states:

*“A threatened listing is less severe than an endangered listing, which the industry most feared. Threatened means a species is vulnerable to extinction soon, but not at immediate risk. State agencies have more flexibility in dealing with a species when it is considered threatened instead of endangered.”*

*‘It should have some adverse impact but not as great as it would have if it would have been an endangered finding,’ said Jon Airey of Columbus-based Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP. He’s the attorney for the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, which fought an endangered listing.*

*Airey said it’s ‘dramatically better than the endangered determination,’ and the wildlife service acknowledged that millions of bats still live in the Midwest.*

*‘So it’s not surprising they ended up concluding it’s not truly endangered,’ he said.”*

To read the entire story, visit the *Columbus Business First* [website](#).