

Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Sustainable Development Law & Policy strives to confront and analyze legal and political issues entailed in achieving economic and environmentally friendly goals during a period of rapid industrialization. As technology advances, both developed and developing states are realizing the benefits of liberal trade regimes, whether that be in the shape of creating jobs where they were once scarce, or providing goods and services to communities at a lower price. This drives the demand for goods and services to be produced and consumed at a staunchly higher rate, and while most states realize benefits from free trade, it has had a critical impact on various aspects of our environment.

This issue features four articles that broadly address the impacts of international trade on environmental and economic sustainable development. Mr. Ravi D. Soopramanien's article, *Never For-GATT: What Recent TBT Decisions Reveal About the Appellate Body's Analysis of Environmental Regulation Under the WTO Agreements*, he argues that the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanisms under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) have not been sufficiently effective on environmental policies as originally hoped. Moreover, he argues for alternative approaches to fulfill the original goals of these WTO Agreements. Mr. Charles E. Di Leva's and Ms. Xiaoxin Shi's article, *The Paris Agreement and the International Trade Regime: Considerations for Harmonization* presents findings that assert the 2016 Paris Agreement, which has been signed by 194 members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will not conflict with bilateral, regional, or the WTO Covered Agreements. The article works as a guide to address where states may implement "nationally determined contributions" under the Paris Agreement. Mr. David Powers' article, *Fighting the Wrong Fight: Why the MLP Parity Act is a Misguided Attempt at Achieving Renewable Energy Capital Raising Parity* asserts that industries and policymakers

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that are attempting to increase the use of renewable energy in place of fossil fuels should limit the oil and gas industry's ability to use the master limited partnership (MLP) as a means of raising capital instead of expanding the role of MLPs to include the renewable energy industry. Finally, Mr. Nick Laneville's article, *Regional Dispute: It is Not Just Ground Beef* argues that WTO members are violating the SPS by not adapting measures to a regional level, which in turn inhibits a state's ability to develop at a sustainable rate.

On behalf of the *Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief*, we would like to thank this issue's authors for their time and effort to make this publication possible. These insights offer a unique approach to complex and increasingly vital issues that we face as global citizens. We would also like to thank our hard working staff members for the time they committed to ensure this publication is of the highest quality. Finally, we would like to thank our readers for their continuing interest and support over the past several years.

Sincerely,



Ryan Schmidt
Co-Editor in Chief



Kimberly Reynolds
Co-Editor in Chief