Editor's Note

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The Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief (SDLP) strives to address and analyze cutting-edge legal issues developing within the fields of environmental law and sustainable development. For the last nineteen years, SDLP has examined the gap between public law and private sector solutions as well as society’s needs.

Good governance requires a balance of transparency, effective collaboration, and proper implementation of policies. As the world becomes increasingly connected, the need for effective governance on the local, national, and international level increases as well. Within the realm of environmental protection, efficient governance at all levels can have a valuable impact on natural resources and wildlife. Yet, when the governing bodies lack transparency and openness, meaningful collaboration, or proper and lawful implementation of policies, the effect can have a shocking blow to natural resources around the world. Nevertheless, the public holds a powerful backstop power to prevent such detriment.

This issue examines that powerful force and the creative solutions employed throughout the world. On a national level, Congress wields a formidable authority over executive revocation of national monuments and public lands held for preservation. Further, Congress’s spending power allows for incentivization of investment into beneficial environmental measures, including Carbon Capture technologies. The issue further highlights the influence of state power in cooperative federalism laws, such as the Federal Power Act. On an international level, the issue highlights the role of transparency in development projects funded by international organizations as well as the strength of international treaties.

Similarly, the public brandishes the strength of public comment to ensure effective collaboration with executive agencies. When that collaboration falters, the Administrative Procedures Act and the Endangered Species Act provide recourse to steer the agency back to informed policymaking. Judicial review of administrative procedures ensure that the agency implements the true intent of Congress, including the commitment to broad habitat and wildlife protection. Together, creative solutions, including those explored in this issue, ensure good governance complete with fair processes, dissemination of information, and benefits for all.

Features:

14 | Can the Expansion of 45Q Effectively Spur Investment in Carbon Capture?
by Shannon Zaret

16 | Jam v. IFC: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?
by Nicholas Johnson

17 | FERC Ruling Undermines Energy Federalism and Arbitrarily Targets Mid-Atlantic Region Renewables
by Philip Killeen

24 | Continuing A Broad Application of Section 9 of the ESA to Prevent Future Mass Extinctions
by Alicia Martinez

26 | How Syria’s Failure to Uphold the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement Exacerbated the Effects of Climate Change in the Levant
by Nivea A. Ohri

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Sincerely,

Nicole Waxman
Editor-in-Chief

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To subscribe to the Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief, email our Managing Editor at sdlp.wcl@gmail.com
The Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief (ISSN 1552-3721) is a student-run initiative at American University Washington College of Law that is published twice each academic year. The Brief embraces an interdisciplinary focus to provide a broad view of current legal, political, and social developments. It was founded to provide a forum for those interested in promoting sustainable economic development, conservation, environmental justice, and biodiversity throughout the world.

Because our publication focuses on reconciling the tensions found within our ecosystem, it spans a broad range of environmental issues such as sustainable development; trade; renewable energy; environmental justice; air, water, and noise regulation; climate change; land use, conservation, and property rights; resource use and regulation; and animal protection.

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