

Editors' Note

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EDITORS' NOTE

Dear Readers,

For more than two decades, the *Sustainable Development Law and Policy Brief (SDLP)* has published works analyzing emerging legal and policy issues within the fields of environmental, energy, sustainable development, and natural resources law. *SDLP* has also prioritized making space for law students in the conversation. We are honored to continue this tradition in Volume XXIII.

This first Issue focuses on legal issues around waste management ranging from extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) for plastic packaging waste, to prosecutions for hazardous and non-hazardous waste violations under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”), to challenges in remediating and revitalizing brownfields contaminated by hazardous waste, pollutants, and other contaminants. The Petrucci article looks at the laws and regulations addressing brownfields including RCRA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (“CERCLA”), and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) regulations; the implementation of federal and state brownfield redevelopment incentive programs; and efforts to address challenges to brownfield redevelopment and revitalization through Ohio state legislation. Petrucci proposes additional measures to incentivize brownfield redevelopment, particularly in low-market-value areas, to address the negative impacts of industrialization in historically underserved communities. The Ozymy & Jarrell Ozymy article examines the criminal provisions of RCRA and the enforcement and prosecutorial structure within the EPA and the Department of Justice (“DOJ”), and does a statistical analysis of RCRA prosecution data between 1983 and 2022. The authors identify significant trends in prosecution and make recommendations to enhance RCRA enforcement. The Issue is rounded out with the Mozak feature which advances the need for thoughtful EPR legislation to address the externalities created by hard-to-recycle plastic waste.

We would like to thank all the article and feature authors for their insights and dedication to raising important legal issues. We would also like to thank the faculty advisors, executive board, staff, and publisher of *SDLP* for making this publication possible. Finally, we would like to thank our readers, whose involvement and investment in *SDLP* are the reason we have been able to continue this publication for more than twenty years.

Sincerely,



Rachel Keylon and Meghan Sullivan

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