

Columbian College of Arts & Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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As George Washington University faculty and administrators involved with the [GW Regulatory Studies Center](#), we would like to provide accurate information about the Center's membership, scholarship, and activities.

About the Center

The GW Regulatory Studies Center is a chartered academic center in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, subject to all GW's policies and oversight by Columbian College Dean Paul Wahlbeck.

The Regulatory Studies Center's mission is to improve regulatory policy through research, education, and outreach, and its scholars [publish](#) in a wide range of leading peer-reviewed academic and legal journals. [These faculty members](#) bring different backgrounds and perspectives to bear on scholarship and teaching, and the Center's research covers a diverse range of topics in regulatory policy and practice. The Regulatory Studies Center's [website](#) offers a transparent presentation of its faculty, research, and scholarly activity.

In addition to academia, the Regulatory Studies Center's faculty have worked in different branches of government during Democratic and Republican administrations. Their expertise and achievements are [recognized](#) by leading organizations in their fields of public policy and administration, economics, administrative law, regulatory impact analysis, and political science. In addition, the Center supports Trachtenberg School graduate [students](#) through research opportunities and career guidance.

The Regulatory Studies Center organizes well-attended [events](#) that feature insights on regulatory policy and practice from individuals across disciplines and the ideological spectrum, including members of Congress from both major political parties and independents, high-ranking officials from each of the last six administrations, international diplomats and academics, and legal, policy, political science, and economic scholars.

The Regulatory Studies Center receives support for its activities from diverse sources including governments, foundations, companies, and individuals. It does not accept funding that is conditioned on hiring (or retaining) particular individuals, nor that [influences the content](#) or conclusions of its work.

In addition to its core faculty and staff, the Regulatory Studies Center occasionally works with other leading scholars to broaden the scope and effectiveness of its research. However, working with an expert on one issue does not imply endorsement of everything that individual has written or is alleged to have said.

Correcting Some Inaccurate and Uninformed Claims

Contrary to unsubstantiated claims, no one in the Regulatory Studies Center questions climate science. In fact, most of the Center's scholars do not focus on environmental or energy issues at all. Those who have written on climate issues address economic and legal questions, not the science. The Regulatory Studies Center explicitly does not take institutional positions on any issues.

The source of many of the criticisms are based on a misleading and inaccurate report of an advocacy organization. That organization's characterizations of the scholarship produced by members of the Regulatory Studies Center are highly misleading and inconsistent with an objective review of the facts. For example, the claim that 96 percent of the Center's research is antiregulatory is based on a biased (and nontransparent) analysis of less than seven percent of its research output.

That figure includes no Regulatory Studies Center-supported academic [journal articles](#), [books](#), [reports](#), [commentaries](#), [insights](#), or [working papers](#), nor does it acknowledge the Center's weekly [Regulation Digest](#), which incorporates news and viewpoints from across the political spectrum. Of the small sample it does consider, it arbitrarily discards the majority of the documents because it acknowledges that they do not support the advocate's narrative that the Center is antiregulatory.

This same organization's characterization of the Regulatory Studies Center scholars' affiliations is also false. It systematically ignores more than two-thirds of the Center's staff, excluding most of the [senior leadership](#) (Professors Steven Balla, Christopher Carrigan, Joseph Cordes, and Bridget Dooling), while attempting to tie the Center to unaffiliated individuals and former interns.

The Regulatory Studies Center welcomes academic debate and peer review, and we encourage interested people to visit our [website](#) and read our work. These attacks, however, eschew the opportunity for fact-based exchange; they focus instead on challenging rigorous scholarship with ad hominem rhetoric. While individuals and organizations are free to disagree with the tools of evidence-based analysis applied by scholars in the Center, mere disagreement with another discipline does not entitle them to censor individuals or units, nor to cut off intellectual debate. This attempt to dictate the direction of scholars' research pursuits through intimidation and mischaracterization is inconsistent with GW's values related to [open inquiry and academic freedom](#).

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