



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WLF Urges EPA to Require Quantitative Cost-Benefit Analysis of New Regulations

*(In re Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Costs and Benefits in Rulemaking)*

**“For too long special interests have been able to push environmental regulations without regard to the economic consequences. By adopting an agency-wide cost-benefit-analysis standard, EPA can ensure that future regulations are based on sound scientific and economic data, promoting consistency and transparency in the rulemaking process.”**

**—Marc B. Robertson, WLF Staff Attorney**

WASHINGTON, DC—Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) today filed formal comments with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to a request for stakeholder input on whether and how EPA should promulgate regulations that provide a consistent and transparent means for weighing regulations’ costs and benefits. WLF’s comments urge EPA to adopt an agency-wide standard requiring quantitative cost-benefit analyses of pollution standards.

For years, EPA’s regulations lacked consistency and transparency, especially during its failed experiment with “social” costs and benefits. WLF’s comments criticize that approach, which led to arbitrary and excessive regulation rather than a focused consideration of both the environment and the economy. WLF argues that EPA should return to the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) best practices, which require the agency to clearly explain why a regulation is justified, consider alternatives, and weigh all costs and benefits of any proposed action. Cost-benefit analysis offers the best way for agency decision-makers to translate the relevant policy considerations into a usable form and quantify the net benefit of any proposed action. While not all effects of regulation can be quantified, an objective analysis eliminates the arbitrariness with which the government too often enacts regulations.

As the current administration scrutinizes fiscally irresponsible regulations, WLF encourages EPA to adopt a standard that emphasizes the economic realities of regulation. This will counteract the efforts of special-interest groups that advocate for regulations based on biases without regard to potential consequences, by requiring that EPA focus on the tangible, monetary value of regulations rather than nebulous “social” benefits.

*Celebrating its 41<sup>st</sup> year, WLF is America’s premier public-interest law firm and policy center advocating for free-market principles, limited government, individual liberty, and the rule of law.*

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