



20th Anniversary

Charting a Course to a Progressive Future

*Two decades of impact
by the Center for Progressive Reform*

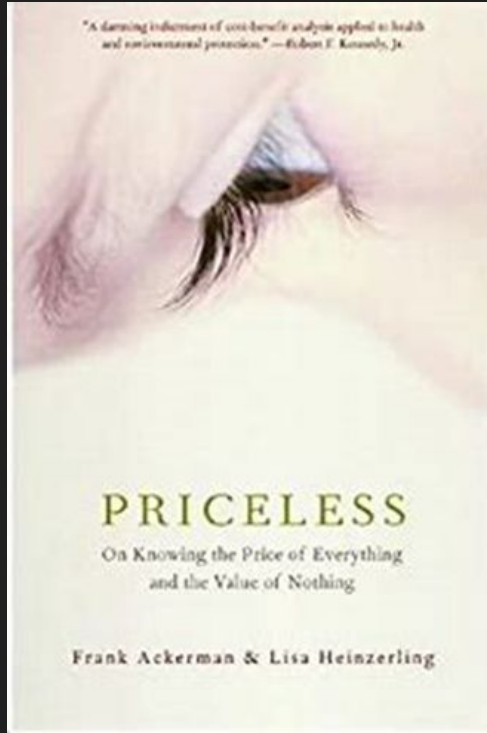
2002: Challenging conservative efforts to sweep aside regulation

In the George W. Bush era, progressive activists sought to challenge the growing conservative movement to undo government regulations that protect workers, consumers, the public, and the planet.

To counter this movement and reframe the debate around government's protective role in society, especially when the market fails, a small group of legal scholars came together to found what was then called the *Center for Progressive Regulation*.



2004: Building opposition to assaults on public protections



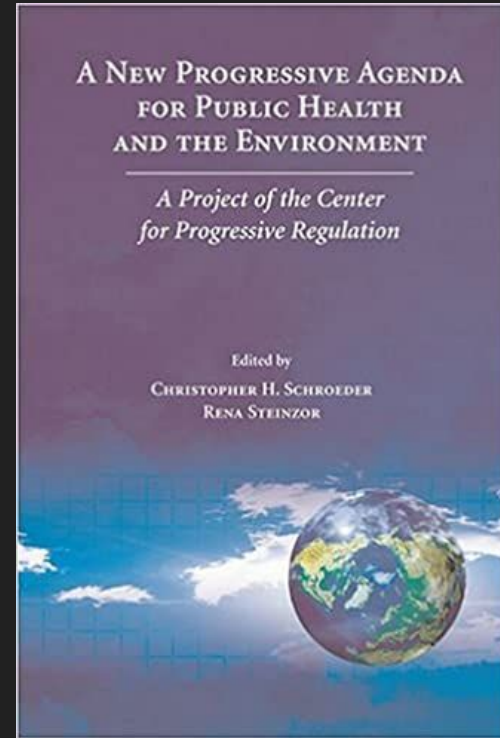
In *Priceless*, Member Scholars Frank Ackerman and Lisa Heinzerling issued the first comprehensive rebuttal of an obscure federal mandate known as cost-benefit analysis.

Their book helped build political opposition to harmful regulatory provisions, such as the “senior death discount,” which sought to devalue environmental protections by assigning lower benefits to people over age 70.

2005: Setting the agenda for public health and environmental regulation

In *A New Progressive Agenda*, Member Scholars Rena Steinzor and Christopher Schroeder showed how federal regulatory policy was increasingly putting corporate interests ahead of the public interest and offered concrete solutions to reverse the alarming trend.

Fifteen years later, the book remains the Center's defining organizational statement.



2005: Urging stronger regulatory safeguards from natural disasters



In the devastating wake of Hurricane Katrina, Member Scholars published *An Unnatural Disaster*, and Rob Verchick testified twice on the issue before Congress.

In the landmark report and testimony, scholars showed how the massive natural disaster led to a massive — but preventable — unnatural disaster, with disproportionate impact on low-wealth people of color.

2006: Rescuing science from political manipulation



Member Scholars Wendy Wagner and Rena Steinzor published *Rescuing Science from Politics* to shine a light on the nefarious practice of industry manipulation of regulatory science for political gain.

Nearly two decades later, their recommendations to improve governance — such as disclosing industry ties to scientific research and protecting whistleblowers — are as important as ever.

2008: Pressing for executive action on climate and environmental justice

OBAMA REGULATORY TO DO LIST				
EPA	GREENHOUSE GAS NATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	ISSUED		
FDA	PREVENTIVE CONTROLS FOR PROCESSED HUMAN AND ANIMAL FOODS	DELAYED		
FDA	PRODUCE SAFETY	DELAYED		
FDA	IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY	DELAYED		
OSHA	SILICA STANDARD	DELAYED		
EPA	OZONE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS	DELAYED		
EPA	"WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES" REGULATORY DEFINITION	ISSUED		
DOL	CHILD FARM-LABOR SAFETY RULES	IN DANGER		
DOT	CRUDE-BY-RAIL SAFETY STANDARDS	ISSUED		
EPA	NATIONAL STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROLS	IN DANGER		
EPA	COAL ASH WASTE DISPOSAL STANDARDS	GUTTED		
EPA	CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION WATER POLLUTION	IN DANGER		
EPA	PERMIT "REPORTING" FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM	DELAYED		

In conjunction with the 2008 presidential election, the Center issued a major report urging President Obama to issue seven key executive orders in his first 100 days in office to help kickstart his agenda on protecting public health, safety, and the environment. As president, Obama took several actions consistent with the report's recommendations.

2011: Exposing corporate efforts to weaken protective regulations

The Center's blockbuster investigative report — *Behind Closed Doors at the White House* — found that lobbyists for the oil, gas, chemical, and other industries have outsize access to a backdoor office at the White House known as the Office on Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).

The report backed up allegations of undue corporate influence in the rulemaking process with empirical data and cemented the Center's reputation as a leading expert on OIRA interference.



2014: Protecting workers' health and safety



The Center published a wide-ranging manual to help workers rights' advocates press for change at the state and local levels, bypassing stalled efforts at the federal level to accomplish meaningful change.

The report — *Winning Safer Workplaces* — was a groundbreaking legal toolkit for workers' health and safety at the state level and took an important first step toward improving health and safety in the workplace.

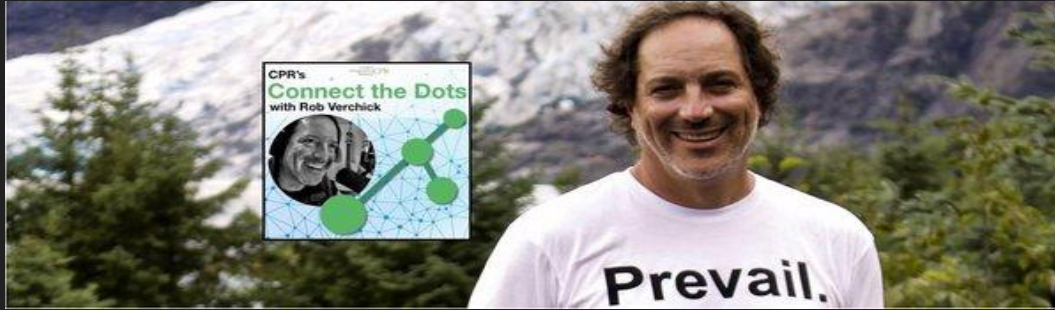
2016: Opposing Trump's assault on protective regulations

The Center was able to respond quickly, when, early in his presidency, Donald Trump and his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, launched a full-fledged attack on bedrock laws, endangering our health, our jobs, our financial security, and our lives.

The Center led the public interest community's response to many of the Trump administration's anti-regulatory actions, and Member Scholars and staff explained the significance of these actions in numerous media interviews.



2018: Educating the public about climate change and resilience



In his *Connect the Dots* podcast, Board President Rob Verchick interviews Member Scholars and outside experts on a variety of environmental issues. Now in its seventh season, the podcast has diversified the Center's communications portfolio, expanded the reach of its messaging, and raised awareness of climate issues relating to climate and energy justice. It also offers new audiences in the ever-growing digital media space concrete solutions to the climate crisis and a clear pathway to a viable, sustainable future.

2020: Advancing federal and state solutions to the climate crisis

Recognizing critical concerns about equity in our nation's response to climate change, Member Scholars urged the federal government to put justice at the center of policy decisions around electricity, transportation, public lands, and other climate and energy matters.

Many recommendations — collected in *Climate. Energy. Justice* — are reflected in the Biden administration's climate agenda and the historic 2022 climate bill. The report also opened the door for state-based policy work in Maryland, North Carolina, Louisiana, and California.



2022: Harnessing the power of law and policy for the public good



Since its founding, the Center has become *the* voice for progressive regulation — and its efforts have a track record of success, including the defeat of legislation that would have prevented federal agencies from protecting Americans from various harms and the appointment of several Member Scholars to the Biden administration.

Now entering its third decade, the Center is focused on protecting overburdened and underserved communities from the harms of climate change through progressive regulation and legislation.

A photograph of a narrow dirt path winding through a lush, green forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. On the left, there are large, dark tree trunks and dense green foliage. On the right, there is a thick wall of green ferns and other plants. The background is misty, with more trees visible in the distance. The text "CENTER FOR PROGRESSIVE REFORM" is overlaid in the center of the image.

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