

Harvard Economist Robert Stavins Joins RFF Board



ROBERT N. STAVINS

Robert N. Stavins, a Harvard economist whose pioneering work in environmental economics has helped bring market-based tools to public policy, has joined RFF's Board of Directors. At Harvard, he is the Albert Pratt Professor of Business and Government, chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Faculty Group at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and director of the Environmental Economics Program.

Stavins entered environmental economics because of a personal interest in the environment. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, he first encountered the trade-offs between economic development and a pristine natural environment. While studying agricultural economics at Cornell, he saw an opportunity to examine social questions with quantitative methods, and at Berkeley, he learned the power of using simple models to yield insights into policy problems, such as water allocation in California. At the Environmental Defense Fund (now Environmental Defense), he observed the use of economic analysis in pursuit of better environmental policy. That led him to graduate study in economics at Harvard, whose faculty he joined after earning his Ph.D.

"What attracted me to the Kennedy School," Stavins says, "was the possibility of combining an academic career with intensive and

extensive involvement in the formulation and execution of public policy." The interplay between scholarly research and real-world implementation is evident in Stavins's many peer-reviewed publications but is perhaps most apparent in his work as director of "Project 88," a bipartisan effort co-chaired by former Senator Timothy Wirth and the late Senator John Heinz, which identified and described market-based instruments for environmental protection.

According to Stavins, "It is typically assumed—at least within academic circles—that the relationship between research and outreach work in the policy community is a one-way street, where academics spread the gospel to practitioners in the field, drawing upon the results of their own and others' scholarly research." But in many cases—Project 88 being a prime example—"my participation in policy matters has stimulated for me entirely new lines of research."

Project 88 eventually informed the development of the first Bush administration's environmental policies and led to the tradable permit system for acid rain reduction, included in the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments.

In other work, Stavins has investigated the causes of wetlands conversion to cropland, including the unintended role played by federal flood control and drainage projects. And he has extended the methodol-

ogy for analyzing land-use changes to investigate the costs of mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration by increasing forestation and slowing deforestation. Current research includes analyses of technology innovation and diffusion, environmental benefit valuation, and the political economy of policy instrument choice.

Stavins is an RFF University Fellow and has coauthored papers with RFF researchers and Paul Portney, RFF president. He is a member of the Environmental Economics Advisory Committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board, the board of directors of the Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, the board of academic advisers of the AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, and the editorial boards of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Resource and Energy Economics*, *Land Economics*, *Environmental Economics Abstracts*, *B.E. Journals of Economic Analysis & Policy*, and *Economic Issues*. He is also a contributing editor of *Environment*.

Stavins believes in the value of economic analysis for environmental policy. Because the cause of virtually all environmental problems in a market economy is economic behavior (the operation of imperfect markets tainted by externalities) he says, economics offers "an exceptionally valuable perspective" for viewing environmental problems and "a powerful set of analytical tools for designing and evaluating environmental policy."

RFF's newest board member's dedication to statistical analysis falters during baseball season, however: notwithstanding empirical evidence to the contrary, Stavins is an ever-optimistic Red Sox fan. ■

Helping to Build RFF's Legacy



VICTORIA J. TSCHINKEL

Dear Friends,

After nine years of service on the RFF Board of Directors, I retired in October 2002. I have been so pleased to be affiliated with RFF over these many years. Like you, I find RFF to be a trusted “voice of reason” in the environmental and natural resource policy debate. RFF scholars do not undertake their research with any preconceived outcomes in mind; they simply follow the facts wherever they might lead. Time and again, RFF has proven to be an invaluable resource for policymakers, environmental advocates, corporate executives, members of the media and academic communities, as well as for the general public. I can personally attest to this, having been a member of most of these constituencies at various times in my career!

For these many reasons, I have also been a longtime financial supporter of RFF. RFF relies on the support of its donors to fund its independent research. And as RFF grows and expands its agenda, its financial integrity becomes even more important.

As much as I would like to be, I will never be a fantastically wealthy individual. I am able to support RFF with modest annual gifts, but I always felt like I wanted to do more. Fortunately, I discovered that there is a very easy way to support RFF on a more significant level—through planned giving.

RFF's planned giving program offers a variety of giving options, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and bequests. You can also name RFF as a beneficiary of your bank account, retirement plan, or insurance policy. Each option offers unique advantages, allowing you to tailor your giving to meet your personal financial needs and goals. By making a planned gift, it is possible to make a significant donation to RFF, ensuring RFF's long-term vitality and financial strength, and take advantage of favorable tax laws now.

To recognize donors of planned gifts, RFF has launched the Legacy Society, of which I am the proud chair. Individuals making a planned gift prior to September 30, 2003, the close of RFF's 50th anniversary \$30 million campaign, will be acknowledged in perpetuity as a founding member. All members of the Legacy Society are acknowledged in RFF's Annual Report. Donors who make planned gifts of \$100,000 or more are honored with lifetime memberships on the RFF Council, a recognition group for RFF's most generous supporters for which we offer many special benefits.

I hope you will consider joining me as a member of the Legacy Society. If you would like more information on supporting RFF through planned giving, please contact Lesli Creedon, director of development, at 202-328-5016 or creedon@rff.org. ■

Best regards,
Victoria J. Tschinkel

A Report from RFF Press

RFF Press supports the mission of RFF by publishing books that make a distinct, original contribution to scholarship, teaching, debate, and decisionmaking about important issues in environmental and natural resource policy.

New Publications

The Promise and Performance of Environmental Conflict Resolution, Rosemary O'Leary and Lisa Bingham, editors. Leading academics and practitioners evaluate mediation as a tool for resolving environmental disputes, providing critical evidence about the kinds of disputes for which it has and has not been successful.

Natural States: The Environmental Imagination in Maine, Oregon, and the Nation, Richard Judd and Chris Beach. While it will directly appeal to people with a connection to Oregon or Maine, this book is also important for its exploration of how broader trends in environmental policy emerged from the interaction of local, state, and national politics—and for its contribution to our knowledge about how popular ideals and populist politics have influenced environmental policy.





Reviews

People Managing Forests: The Links between Human Well-Being and Sustainability, Carol J. Pierce Colfer and Yvonne Byron, editors

UNASYLVA: An International Journal of Forestry and Forest Industries (published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization): “It pursues the fundamental question: How can conditions be created that allow people who live in and around forests to maintain the valued aspects of their own way of life and to prosper while still protecting those forests on which they, and perhaps the rest of humankind, depend? . . . Anyone with an interest in the cultural and social dimensions of sustainable forest management would find the book valuable.”

Which Way Forward? People, Forests, and Policymaking in Indonesia, Carol J. Pierce Colfer and Ida Adju Pradnja Resosudarmo, editors

International Forestry Review: “A very powerful combination . . . from a diverse set of authors, each writing from

different perspectives and displaying a deep understanding of the issues.”

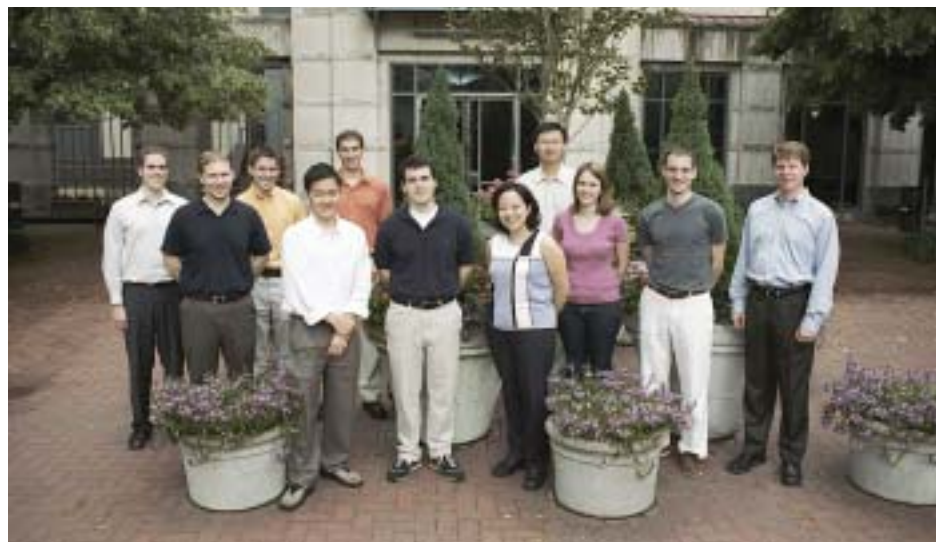
Policy Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management, Thomas Sterner

Regulation: “[Deals] systematically and broadly with theory and practice . . . [Sterner] has fully surveyed the economics of environmental and pollution control and given a broad sample of applications . . . a viewpoint that is absent in the literature . . . a valuable guide to the problems of implementing environmental policy.”

Outreach

In an effort to broaden stakeholder awareness of new tools for improving environmental performance, the Press recently hosted a workshop on private-sector management

approaches. Cary Coglianese and Jennifer Nash, of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, organized the workshop, which was sponsored by the Kennedy School, RFF Press, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. The participants, a range of state and local government officials, EPA staff, and scholars, evaluated the current evidence on management-based strategies and discussed the lessons to be learned for future developments. The workshop themes were closely related to Coglianese and Nash’s 2001 RFF Press book, *Regulating from the Inside: Can Environmental Management Systems Achieve Policy Goals?* The authors plan to develop a new book, based in part on the workshop discussions. For more information, visit: www.ksg.harvard.edu/cbg/Conferences/rpp_leveraging_conference/home.htm.



RFF’S 2003 SUMMER INTERNS RFF sponsors a summer internship program designed to give students the opportunity to work with members of the research staff on ongoing projects or assist in the development of entirely new areas of research and policy analysis. RFF also offers an internship in honor of Dr. Walter O. Spofford, Jr., who helped establish RFF’s China Program, and an internship with RFF Press, our book publishing arm. Pictured here are several of this year’s interns.

From left: Aaron Severn, Paul Sorisio, Ryan Derry, David Chen, Nicholas Burger, Marc Tarlock, Kathleen Chiang, Jiang Ru (Spofford), Jessica L. Bailey (RFF Press), Luther Carter, and James Boyd, RFF senior fellow and division director. Not pictured: Jen Graham, Maria Damon, Kirsty Michaud, Katrina Jessoe, Jaakko Heikkilä, Daniel Kaffine, and Joseph Keithley.