STATEMENT ON EPA RULE UPPENDING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CLEAN AIR ACT REGULATIONS

The Trump administration is soon expected to finalize a rule that will create new, pernicious guidelines for the cost-benefit analyses that underlie Clean Air Act regulations. This rule is likely to make it considerably more difficult for the agency to issue protective clean-air safeguards in the future, as provisions of the rule will minimize or ignore many of the public health benefits of reducing air pollution. The EPA is misleadingly referring to this as a rule for “Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rulemaking Process.”

Richard Revesz, Director of the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law, has released the following statement:

“This rule is an attack on public health, cloaked in misleading rhetoric. Clean Air Act rules are among the country’s greatest success stories, having saved hundreds of thousands of lives. This unnecessary, unjustified rule seeks to conceal or ignore many public health benefits in the hopes of limiting future pollution reductions. The Trump administration’s jargon about consistency and transparency is a ruse. This rule breaks with decades of bipartisan precedent on the best practices for cost-benefit analysis of regulations, undermining the balanced consideration of regulatory impacts.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity, in conjunction with several other organizations, submitted comments on the numerous flaws in the proposed version of the rule.

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The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.