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STATEMENT ON GAO REPORT ON SOCIAL COST OF CARBON

A new report from the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) details how the Trump administration has used an artificially low estimate of climate damages, ignoring scientific and economic data in order to justify weakened climate policies. In establishing its interim “social cost of carbon” metric, the administration has failed to heed input from the National Academies of Sciences and numerous other experts.

Researchers at the Institute for Policy Integrity have authored numerous academic articles and reports on the social cost of carbon, and discussed the matter in dozens of legal briefs and public comments for regulatory proceedings. The institute also maintains costofcarbon.org, a public resource about the social cost of carbon.

Richard Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at NYU School of Law and director of the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“This is yet another example of how the administration is ignoring science and economics in its policy decisions. Pretending that climate change will have virtually no impacts on Americans is completely disingenuous, and the resulting policy failures could have terrible consequences.”

Revesz is available for interviews on these issues.

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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.