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Editor's Perspective

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EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

It is bittersweet to write my last letter as the editor for the *Journal of Environmental and Sustainably Law*. This last year has flown by and I am incredibly proud of all the hard work the current editorial board and associate members have put into this issue.

Nasser Alreshaid authored the cornerstone article, "*Lodging the Sustainable Development Goals in the International Trade Regime: From Trade Rhetoric to Trade Plethoric.*" Sustainable development goals are becoming increasingly vital to connecting trade and development in the international sphere. Alreshaid's article analyzes the development and evolution of the term "sustainable development," and proposes solutions to make sustainable development goals part of the multilateral trading system.

I had the honor to start the student section with my case note on *Horne v. Department of Agriculture*. In this case, the United States Supreme Court was asked to determine whether a reserve condition imposed on the sale of a commodity, like raisins, constitutes a taking worthy of compensation under the Fifth Amendment. Focusing on the legal and policy concerns behind reserve pool requirements, my conclusion is that a taking had occurred and as such, the raisin farmers should have been compensated. Recently, the Supreme Court released its opinion on this case, addressing many of the points discussed in my note.

As renewable energy continues to battle for market share against the fossil fuel industry, Ellyn Horan argues that government and public support are crucial in overcoming the obstacles in the development of wind power in Missouri. In her article, titled "*Change is in the Wind: The Need for Wind Power in Missouri & The Obstacles That Stand in the Way,*" Horan takes a look at how politics can either make or break wind energy, and proposes ways for Missouri to take a greater role in developing wind energy.

Next, Alex Langley points out the weaknesses in Missouri's Recreational Use Act ("RUA"). After two children were electrocuted by wiring on their family's dock at the Lake of the Ozarks, the Missouri Supreme Court found that the company owning the majority of the lake was not liable under the RUA. Langley now proposes that in the face of this judgement, either judicial or legislative changes need to be made in order to protect the public from dangers like stray electrical currents.

The definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act (“CWA”) has continued to evolve over the last few years. As such, many landowners are struggling to obtain judicial review of CWA permits. In his case note on *Hawkes Co., Inc, et. Al v. United States Army of Engineers*, Garrett Pratt discusses the importance of the Supreme Court establishing that an Approved Jurisdictional Determination affects a landowner’s legal rights.

Moving to more tropical climates, Brett Smith tackles the question of whether the Clean Water Act applies to groundwater pollution in Maui. The County of Maui has been discharging millions of gallons of treated wastewater into an aquifer, and is now in a legal battle regarding the permits required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. In his note, Smith discusses how the precedent set by *Hawaii Wildlife Fund v. County of Maui* provides the much-needed guidelines for a wiser interpretation of the CWA.

For this issue, Adrienne Spiller wrote an article on the Grain Belt Express Clean Line, a proposed transmission line that would run from Kansas, through Missouri and Illinois, and end in Indiana. The project ran into some obstacles though when it could not obtain regulatory approval in Missouri. Spiller does a wonderful job of outlining the consequences of granting private companies the ability to use eminent domain to seize land from private citizens, with a unique focus on the Green Belt Express proposal and its impact on Missouri.

Next, Adam Wilson takes an in-depth look at the future of solar energy in the United States. Specifically, Wilson outlines the benefits of solar energy, the laws and polices promoting solar energy production and why they are insufficient, and the legal and political efforts to hinder the growth of solar energy.

Finally, this issue concludes with an article written by Kristina Youmaran on the Bridgeton Landfill located outside of St. Louis, Missouri. This landfill fell victim to an underground fire, resulting in odor annoyances to the public, and is now facing harsh legal and media scrutiny. Youmaran analyzes the series of unfortunate events that occurred at the Bridgeton Landfill and the legal and social consequences facing the landfill owners.

Thank you for picking up this issue of JESL, as your continued support of our publication is greatly appreciated. Our staff put in a lot of hours and effort into researching, writing, and editing each submission, so we sincerely hope you enjoyed reading these articles!

YELENA BOSOVIK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF 2015-2016