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Center for Progressive Reform Announces New Executive Director

Jake Caldwell to Assume Post in Second Week of January

Washington, DC ----- The Board of Directors of the Center for Progressive Reform today announced that it has selected Jake Caldwell to serve as the nonprofit organization's new executive director. Caldwell succeeds Shana Jones, who earlier this year announced her intention to leave the organization to teach environmental policy at Old Dominion University.

Caldwell comes to CPR after six years at the Center for American Progress, where he was the Director of Policy for Agriculture, Trade and Energy. His research and writing in that capacity frequently focused on environmental issues, including climate change regulation, renewable energy financing, clean energy and conservation, biofuel production and more. From November 2008 to January 2009, Caldwell served as a member of President Obama's Transition Team, in the Energy and Natural Resources Section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agency Review. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, teaching a course on International Environmental Law and Trade. Caldwell has also worked with the Clinton Global Initiative's Global Poverty Working Group and the National Wildlife Federation, among others.

"We're thrilled to have Jake join us," said CPR President Rena Steinzor, a law professor at the Carey School of Law. "Jake brings a wealth of experience to CPR with the environmental and regulatory issues that are the core of our work, and knows how to make scholarship influential in the political and policymaking process. We know CPR will grow and flourish with his leadership."

"I'm excited about the opportunity, and look forward to working with CPR's 50-plus scholars and leaders across the country and its top-notch expert staff," Caldwell said. "CPR is a vital institution and powerful force for strengthening the link between the academic and policymaking worlds on the issues that matter most to all Americans. Our Member Scholars are the very best in their fields, with a substantive knowledge of the issues that's rivaled only by their passion for protecting health, safety and the environment. I'm looking forward to helping them inject their ideas into the policy process, and to helping CPR build on its hard-earned reputation for solid research and analysis. CPR's leadership and credibility are needed now more than ever."

CPR marks its 10th anniversary year in 2012, beginning with an anniversary celebration on the evening of January 4 at the offices of Public Citizen.

Caldwell will assume his new position in the second week of January.

Steinzor also commended Jones for her leadership of the organization over the past two years. “CPR has benefited tremendously from Shana Jones’ leadership,” Steinzor said. “Shana presided over a period of significant growth for the organization, in its resources, its base of Member Scholars, and its staffing. Significantly, that growth came at a time when many nonprofits were forced by the recession to make cutbacks. We deeply appreciate her leadership and know she will excel in the work that awaits her.”

The Center for Progressive Reform is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to protecting health, safety, and the environment through analysis and commentary. For more information, contact Ben Somberg at bsomberg@progressivereform.org or at 202-747-0698, or visit CPR on the web at www.progressivereform.org. Read CPRBlog at www.progressivereform.org/cprblog.cfm.