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For Immediate Release

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**This Thursday: Key Government and Private Sector Leaders to Examine Natural Resources at a Crossroads in 2020**

Washington, DC – *September 15, 2020* – 2020 has been a year of great challenge and change. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous other influences are quickly and dramatically shaping how private and public sector entities manage, address and optimize natural resources in the US and abroad. The need for efficiency, innovation and collaboration has never been more evident. The complexity of current times heralds a new era of opportunity too – for corporations, for higher learning institutions, for government at multiple levels, for research & conservation organizations, for community leaders and more.

The Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group (“Group”), in collaboration with the George Washington Law School, the Environmental Law Institute and the George Washington University Environmental and Energy Management Institute, will host a unique online national and international discussion this week, featuring industrial company leaders, government decision-makers, faculty and other academic researchers and others to review natural resource related policies and practices both within and outside the United State.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Natural Resources Symposium, “*Natural Resources at a Crossroads: How 2020 Has Affected Natural Resources Law and Policy and Highlighted the Importance of Private/Public Collaborations to Advance Shared Objectives*”, is being convened in two parts. Part 1 is being conducted as a virtual event on September 17, 2020 and Part 2 will be conducted as an in person event at The George Washington University Law School in Fall 2021.

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Barbara J. Goldsmith, the Symposium's Chairperson, explains: "Convened every two to three years, the Natural Resources Symposium constitutes a unique multi-stakeholder examination of natural resource related law, policy and practice with a strong focus on innovative and cutting-edge solutions. It is the only continuing national and international forum involving industry, government and others on these issues."

The September 17 program will look at the natural resource policy and practice arena in the context of today's realities, with a focus on how companies, government and other stakeholders can take advantage of available opportunities for change that can broadly result in an effective and beneficial practice. The program will highlight corporate innovation, government reinvigoration, non-governmental/community action and multi-stakeholder partnerships – all aimed at embracing and attaining shared objectives to achieve the best possible natural resource practice.

There is an exciting roster of speakers and we look forward to an informative, provocative, and spirited dialogue leading to a broad set of ideas and plans for follow up. Among our well-known speakers are thought leaders in climate, private/public partnerships, environmental management issues, natural resource liability, industry strategy, and more including Roger Martella, General Counsel, Environment, Health and Safety at General Electric; Susan Avery, Ph.D., President Emerita, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Alex Beehler, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, US Department of Defense; Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency; Chair, Superfund Task Force; Lynn Scarlett, Chief External Affairs Officer, The Nature Conservancy; Former Deputy Secretary, US Department of the Interior and many others.

The Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group, founded in 1988, is comprised of multinational companies in all industry sectors. It is the only such group worldwide that is exclusively focused on the interface between natural resources and energy, transportation and industrial activities. In working to achieve sound policies and practices covering legal, scientific, economic and other dimensions, it partners with a broad spectrum of entities within industry and outside it including government authorities, academia, and research and conservation organizations – pursuant to a reasonable, balanced, predictable, and transparent practice arena.

Further information on the Symposium program and its key sponsors can be found at [www.naturalresourcesymposium.com](http://www.naturalresourcesymposium.com).

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