



ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES CENTER
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR FUNDING
Adopted January 28, 2015

Consistent with past practice, the Energy Policy Initiatives Center's (EPIC) Board of Advisors formally adopts the following policy applicable to receipt of any funds from any financially interested private stakeholder.¹

EPIC is a research and educational center within the University of San Diego School of Law. EPIC's mission is to conduct objective study of energy-related policies and practices, with due consideration for long-term effects, and to educate students and the public about the implications of energy public policies. EPIC's activities are funded by a combination of internal and external sources. The majority of EPIC's funding is provided by an endowment. External funding is provided by a variety of sources, including federal agencies, publicly-owned and investor-owned utilities, local public agencies, non-profit organizations, foundations, private companies, and other universities. This policy addresses the receipt of funds by EPIC from stakeholders. Acceptance of such funds will be limited to the following terms and conditions:

1. The core funding endowment for the base operations of EPIC is intended to cover general operational costs. The use of such funds is made at the discretion of the director with oversight from the Board of Advisors and the Dean of the School of Law. Any contribution to this core funding must be unrestricted and unconditional, and shall not be provided or accepted on terms that conflict with EPIC's mission. Any such gift, from whatever source, shall not be provided or accepted with the understanding or expectation that additional or future contribution shall be made.
2. Particular activity funding beyond that intended to support core activities will only be accepted for discrete projects and purposes subject to the following:
 - a. Where the conditions and expenditures are consistent with EPIC's mission and do not create a conflict of interest that might compromise it;
 - b. The funded project shall produce a finite finished product or service rendered and shall terminate within a reasonable time period; and
 - c. No project shall be funded by any stakeholder that creates a long-term dependency on its continued discretionary approval of further funding for future projects.
3. All final decisions to approve particular projects and their funding sources shall be affirmatively disclosed by EPIC, and posted on its website.
4. All final work products produced from financially interested private stakeholder-funded projects shall be publicly disclosed and publicly available for the reasonable cost of relevant document reproduction if not available on the web. Excepted from such disclosure may be (a) materials from incomplete and still active projects, (b) those subject to advance agreement of confidentiality for compelling reasons unrelated to findings or conclusions, or (c) as to aspects properly subject to trade secret or other recognized privilege.

¹ As used herein, "stakeholders" refers to entities with an existing or likely prospective financial stake relevant to an EPIC activity.