

WATCHDOGGING THE WATCHDOGS

The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (CRE) recently set up Watchdog Watch. Watchdog Watch “define[s] a regulatory watchdog as an organization whose primary activity is to either participate directly in a wide range of regulatory proceedings or, through their website, to significantly influence the participation of other persons in such rulemakings.” The watchdogs it’s watching include a who’s who of progressive groups: Consumer’s Union, CorpWatch, Greenpeace International, Policy Action Network, Public Citizen, Friends of the Earth, PRWatch, and the U.S. PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups).

Source: <http://thecre.com/watchdogs.html>

But, says the CRE—whose advisory board consists (among others), of former Office of Management and Budget appointees, such as James B. MacRae (OMB official under Reagan, Bush, and Clinton), Jim Tozzi (an industry lobbyist who has held various positions at the OMB in the Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations)—its paramount goals are “To ensure that the public has access to data and information used to develop federal regulations, and To ensure that information which federal agencies disseminate to the public is of the highest quality.”

Source: <http://www.thecre.com>