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Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States

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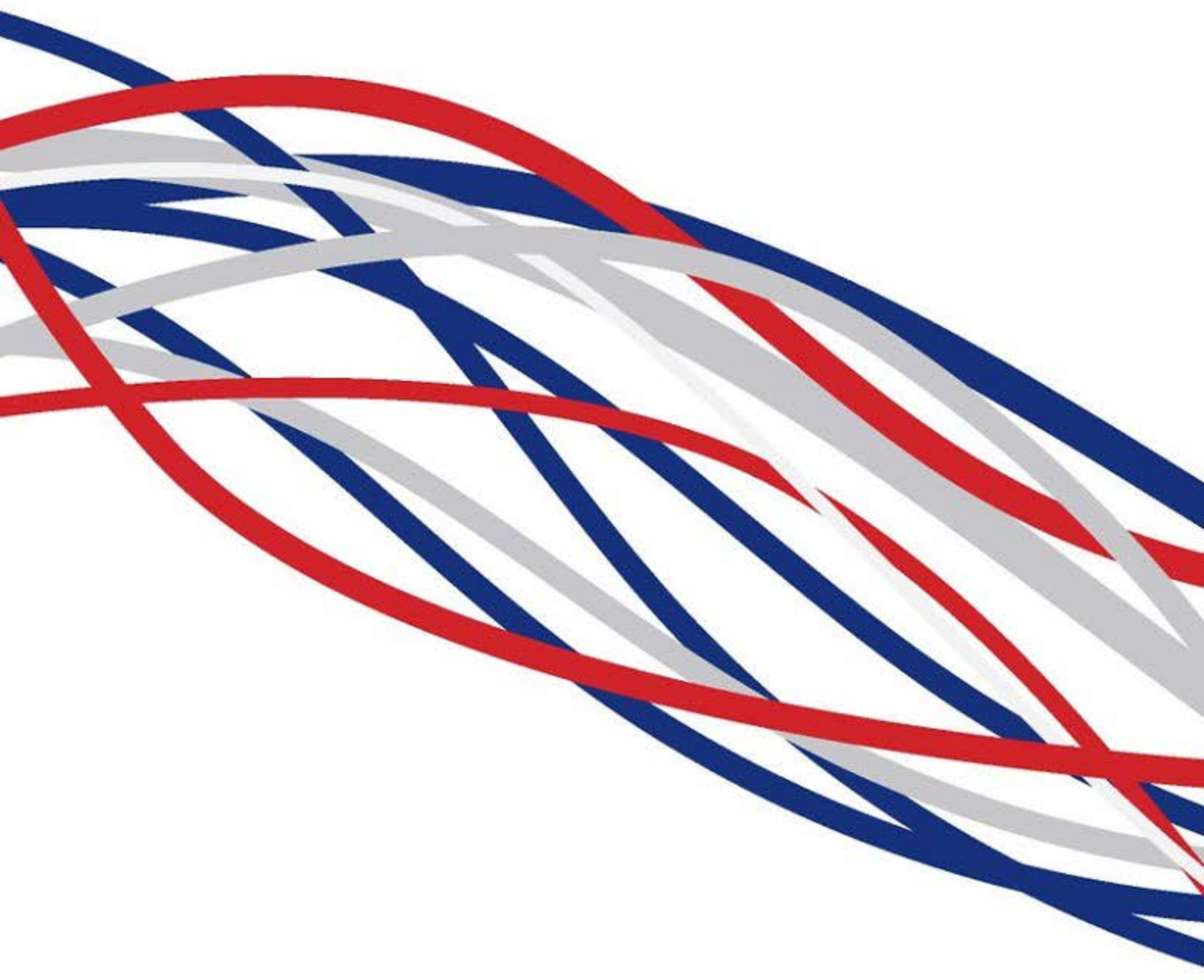
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**LEGAL
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DEEP DECARBONIZATION
IN THE UNITED STATES**

**MICHAEL B. GERRARD AND JOHN C. DERNBACH,
EDITORS**



LEGAL PATHWAYS TO DEEP DECARBONIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States is a “legal playbook” that identifies well over 1,000 legal options for enabling the United States to address one of the greatest problems facing this country and the rest of humanity. The book addresses in detail 35 different topics in as many chapters, including energy efficiency, conservation, and fuel switching; electricity and fuel decarbonization; carbon capture and negative emissions; non-carbon dioxide climate pollutants; and a variety of cross-cutting issues. Authors were asked to include all legal options—federal, state, and local law, as well as private governance—even if they do not now seem politically realistic or likely, giving *Legal Pathways* not just immediate value, but also value over time.

While the scale and complexity of deep decarbonization are enormous, this book has a simple message: deep decarbonization is achievable in the United States using laws that exist or could be enacted. These legal tools can be used with significant economic, social, environmental, and national security benefits.

“A growing chorus of Americans understand that climate change is the biggest public health, economic, and national security challenge our families have ever faced and they rightly ask, ‘What can anyone do?’ Well, this book makes that answer very clear: we can do a lot as individuals, businesses, communities, cities, states, and the federal government to fight climate change. The legal pathways are many and the barriers are not insurmountable. In short, the time is now to dig deep and decarbonize.”

—**Gina McCarthy**, Former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

“Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States sets forth over 1,000 solutions for federal, state, local, and private actors to tackle climate change. This book also makes the math for Congress clear: with hundreds of policy options and 12 years to stop the worst impacts of climate change, now is the time to find a path forward.”

—**Sheldon Whitehouse**, U.S. Senator, Rhode Island

“This superb work comes at a critical time in the history of our planet. As we increasingly face the threat and reality of climate change and its inevitable impact on our most vulnerable populations, this book provides the best and most current thinking on viable options for the future to address and ameliorate a vexing, worldwide challenge of extraordinary magnitude. Michael Gerrard and John Dernbach are two of the most distinguished academicians in the country on these issues, and they have assembled leading scholars and practitioners to provide a possible path forward. With 35 chapters and over 1,000 legal options, the book is like a menu of offerings for public consumption, showing that real actions can be taken, now and in the future, to achieve deep decarbonization. I recommend the book highly.”

—**John C. Cruden**, Past Assistant Attorney General,
Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice

“This book proves that we already know what to do about climate change, if only we had the will to do it. The path to decarbonization depends as much on removing legal impediments and changing outdated incentive systems as it does on imposing new regulations. There are ideas here for every sector of the economy, for every level of government, and for business and nongovernmental organizations, too, all of which should be on the table for any serious country facing the most serious of challenges. By giving us a sense of the possible, Gerrard and Dernbach and their fine authors seem to be saying two things: (1) do something; and (2) it’s possible. What a timely message, and what a great collection.”

—**Jody Freeman**, Archibald Cox Professor of Law and
Founding Director of the Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program

Michael B. Gerrard is the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, where he founded and directs the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law.

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