

NEW COLUMNIST AT BAT

The Forum welcomes to its lineup of columnists Robert N. Stavins, pictured below in his box seat in Fenway Park waiting for his beloved Boston Red Sox to take the field. Across the river at Harvard, Stavins is the Albert Pratt Professor of Business and Government, chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Faculty Group at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Director of the Environmental Economics Program.

Because he is renowned as a teacher as well as a scholar, we be-

lieve environmental professionals will find the professor's column instructive at the same time that it is challenging on a policy level. The RFF biography tells the story of a young Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone who saw firsthand the tradeoffs between development and environment. At the Environmental Defense Fund, he learned how to apply economic analysis to environmental policy, which helped propel him into an academic career. After gaining his Ph.D. at Harvard, he joined its faculty, working at the Kennedy School, where it was possible to be both an academic and to



work directly on the formulation and execution of public policy.

As an example, he was picked to be director of Project 88, a bipartisan effort co-chaired by then Senators Tim Wirth and John Heinz, which identified market-based instruments for environmental protection. Project 88 is credited with informing the first Bush administration's adoption of the tradable permit system for acid rain in the 1990 Clean Air Amendments. Economics offers "an exceptionally valuable perspective for viewing environmental problems and a powerful set of analytical tools for designing and evaluating environmental policy," says Stavins. Indeed: The column is called "An Economic Perspective."

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