



Dear Friend of TCP,

I want you to be the first to know that The Constitution Project (TCP) and the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) have decided to join forces. At the end of this year, TCP will officially become part of POGO, and I couldn't be more delighted.

I founded TCP 20 years ago to combat the increasing partisanship surrounding our Constitution. Throughout the next two decades, TCP has brought together people of diverse experiences and political philosophies to forge consensus on some of the most difficult constitutional questions of the day. We have addressed issues as varied as government-sanctioned torture of terrorist suspects, myriad criminal justice concerns, safeguards for privacy and surveillance, and the obligations of each branch of government to ensure checks and balances...and many more. We long ago pioneered an approach that is now replicated by organizations nationwide – an approach involving the bringing together people of varying experiences and partisan views to find common ground.

Even in this age of extreme partisanship, that approach is in many ways more relevant than ever. I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments of this unique organization, and of the many staff members who, over the years, have provided the expertise and counsel that have made TCP so influential and highly-regarded. And I am so grateful to the members of our Board of Directors who have, over the years, provided the guidance and support that made us so effective.

Now TCP must be positioned to respond effectively to some of the most significant threats to our constitutional rights and values we have ever seen. I know that POGO, under the outstanding leadership of its Executive Director, Danielle Brian, shares that view and that together, we will be stronger still in doing so. With TCP's legal expertise, and POGO's investigative skills, we make a great team and I am excited about our next steps together.

POGO has long been the preeminent nonpartisan, independent government watchdog whose investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable and ethical federal government. You'll be happy to know that former Congressman Mickey Edwards (R-OK) is currently serving as a member of both TCP's and POGO's Board of Directors.

With TCP's new chapter approaching, I have also decided to step down as its President at the end of 2017. I have been at TCP's helm since I founded it. We have grown from a one-person entity in 1997 to, at times, 15 of us. It is time for fresh leadership, and for me to take a break, although I am delighted that I will become a member of POGO's board. I am also pleased to let you know that, under the leadership of Danielle at POGO, Sarah Turberville, TCP's current Director of Justice Programs, will transition to the new role of Director of The Constitution Project at POGO.

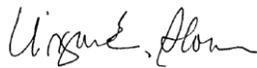
In addition, our fantastic staff of Madhu Grewal, Jake Laperruque, David Janovsky, and Shoshana Riley will officially become staff members at POGO. And as you may already know, Katherine Hawkins, formerly a senior counsel at TCP who worked on human rights issues, recently took a position at POGO as an investigator. While Katherine's move was entirely coincidental to our merger plans, we are delighted that she is already at POGO and will continue to do some of the great work that she has done at TCP.

I also want to assure you that TCP will also continue to address many of the issues we presently tackle. Given the more fundamental threats facing our democratic norms and institutions, we will also take on new investigations and lines of advocacy to surmount the enormous challenges we face in 2017 and beyond. As TCP looks, for example, to combat attacks on the courts or to safeguard the right to assemble and petition the government, we will likely need to re-prioritize some of our existing work in order to do so.

In short, I could not be more confident that TCP's mission will continue at POGO and that, as a result of this merger, we will emerge stronger and better prepared for the constitutional battles that lie ahead. I hope that you will continue to collaborate with and support TCP; we cannot continue to carry out our mission without you.

It has been my great honor and pleasure to work with you over the past 20 years. I look forward to new opportunities, and I know that they will involve a continued commitment to social justice and, hopefully, new chances to work with you.

My very best,



Virginia E. Sloan