



Internship

Fall 2006

Global Warming ■ Sustainability ■ Renewable Energy ■ Environmental Economics

Want to work on cutting edge policy issues?

Interested in applying class work to the real world?

Want to work for the causes you believe in?

If you want more from an internship than making copies and licking envelopes, consider interning at Public Citizen, doing substantive work on real issues and making a difference in Texas.

Who are we?

a non-profit, public interest organization

Over half a century ago, a retiring politician was urged by supporters to reconsider his decision. The politician replied, "No thanks, I am going to retire and become a public citizen...for there is no greater responsibility than to be an active and engaged public citizen."

Public Citizen is a non-profit consumer advocacy organization founded by Ralph Nader in 1971. Public Citizen's mission is based on two principles: consumer products should be safe when manufactured, used and disposed of, and government agencies should protect people not the industries regulated.

Public Citizen's Texas Office was established in 1984. The office protects health, safety and democracy by focusing on energy, environment and ethics issues.

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PC interns perform meaningful work that is used by the office to affect social and environmental change.

Our internship program was established in 1985. The goal is to professionally develop students by providing challenging internships that teach substantive policy research, writing and advocacy.

Over the past 17 years, we have been fortunate to have over 175 student interns working on projects ranging from documenting Texas' worst polluters to establishing a system of independent judges for state agencies.

Our experience has been that Public Citizen internships can benefit students in a number of ways:

Why Intern?

Work on projects that make a difference.

PC interns have provided research and advocacy to enact significant consumer and environmental protections. **About one-third of PC intern projects have changed laws or policies.**

Improve confidence in your abilities.

About one-third of PC interns have presented an issue at a press conference, public hearing or on television/radio.

Experience helps chart your early career.

By gaining a better sense of the working world, PC internship experiences have assisted students in determining their future vocation. For some, the experience sparked an interest in obtaining a graduate degree. **About one-quarter of our interns have continued into careers in public service.**

PC interns have worked on projects that make a difference. A snapshot of this growing list:

- *Ban smoking in University of Texas buildings*
- *Pass statewide "lemon laws" for new cars*
- *Establish a statewide bill of rights for health care consumers*
- *Document Texas' worst polluters*
- *Document campaign contributions to the Texas Railroad Commission*
- *Evaluate the impacts of global warming in Texas communities*

As an intern, you might organize a demonstration, conduct a press conference, or write an op/ed for a major newspaper.