



Elizabeth L. Horner

PARTNER

A native of the DC area, Elizabeth has worked on complex policy challenges regarding legislative, executive, and judicial matters, particularly in the environmental space.



Industries

[Energy & Cleantech](#)

Practices

[Government Relations](#)
[Environmental](#)

Education

University of Virginia School of Law, JD, Virginia Law Review, Notes Editor, 2011
Princeton University, AB, high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, 2008

Offices

[Washington, DC](#)

Phone

[202.350.3625](tel:202.350.3625)

Email

elizabeth.horner@afslaw.com

Drawing on her experience as Republican Chief Counsel to a Senate committee, as an in-house counsel at a major trade association, and as an environmental attorney at a Washington, DC, law firm, Elizabeth knows how to design advocacy and legal strategies across multiple policy areas. She has negotiated the text of new laws, written regulatory comments, developed media strategies, and served as counsel in challenges to regulations, including before the US Supreme Court and US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

She has worked on environmental and infrastructure legislation signed into law, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). She has also worked on resolutions and legislation under the Congressional Review Act and the Congressional Budget Act, including the Inflation Reduction Act and associated application of the so-called Byrd Rule for budget reconciliation legislation.

Elizabeth has engaged on energy and environmental legal and policy issues her entire career. She has examined associated tax policy and how domestic regulations can impact trade and small businesses. She has witnessed how federal policies can affect innovation and financial investment in emerging technologies, energy production, transportation and infrastructure projects, and domestic manufacturing. She draws on years of work on environmental regulation and permitting, including issues such as:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental reviews;
- Stationary and mobile source emissions regulation under the Clean Air Act;
- Permitting and section 401 certification under the Clean Water Act; and
- Emergent regulation of PFAS under CERCLA and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Previous Work

Capitol Hill Experience

Most recently, Elizabeth served as a senior US Senate staff member for over seven years. She regularly briefed and interacted with Senators and Senate leadership staff, as well as Senate-confirmed and other senior officials in both the Trump and Biden administrations. She also worked with Republican and Democratic staff across the Senate and House committees of jurisdiction and their member offices to advance legislative and other priorities, including through appropriations legislation and the National Defense Authorization Act. During her time on the Hill, she worked on nominations, oversight, and hearings covering a variety of agency activities, including: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Highway Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Council on Environmental Quality, US Fish and Wildlife Service, General Services Administration, Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Economic Development Administration, and regional economic commissions such as the Appalachian Regional Commission.

As Chief Counsel of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) under Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Elizabeth managed the committee's consideration of nominations, oversight, and budget reconciliation and provided counsel in writing legislation. She served as a leading Republican committee staffer during consideration of the Inflation Reduction Act and American Rescue Plan and worked with Republican and Democratic staff in the development of the bipartisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, which passed the EPW Committee unanimously. That bill ultimately became the backbone of the IIJA.

Elizabeth regularly worked with the Senate Republican and Democratic offices, and House counterparts, to advance legislative priorities. Prior to Elizabeth's promotion to chief counsel, she was the committee's lead staffer for Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and climate issues under then-EPW Chairman John Barrasso, MD (R-WY), the recently elected Senate Republican Whip. For example, she worked throughout the legislative process on a three-bill bipartisan package signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021:

- *Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act (USE IT Act)*, which supported more efficient permitting of CCUS and related infrastructure as well as research for direct air capture and carbon utilization;
- *American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act)*, which authorized a new regulatory regime to implement a nationwide phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons by EPA; and
- *Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2020 (DERA)*, which reauthorized the DERA grant and rebate program administered by EPA for five years.

In-House Counsel & Trade Association Experience

Previously, Elizabeth handled energy and environmental issues for a major trade association. In that role, she worked to develop consensus among association members on priorities, engaged policymakers through written communications and in-person meetings, and helped to build coalitions with allied trade associations and industries.

Outside Counsel Experience

Elizabeth began her career after law school as an associate in the environmental practice of an international law firm. She assisted clients across a variety of environmental matters, with a particular focus on the Clean Air Act. Her work included representation in litigation before the DC Circuit and US Supreme Court, as well as in rulemakings by EPA.

Bar Admissions

[District of Columbia](#)

[Virginia](#)

Court Admissions

[Supreme Court of the United States](#)

[US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit](#)