

Experts Warn of Federal Government Brain Drain That Could Be ‘Devastating’ for the US Economy

Media Mentions

February 26, 2025 | *Fortune* | 1 minute read | Washington, DC

Firing workers with deep knowledge of federal rules and regulations means that Trump’s own economic agenda could be hobbled, Bracewell’s **Jeff Holmstead** told *Fortune*. Holmstead, who worked in the US Environmental Protection Agency under the George W. Bush administration, noted that rolling back regulations, as Trump has said he wants to do, requires expertise. And only a small number of employees can actually oversee that process properly.

“You can’t do that if you don’t have people to actually go through the rule-making process, developing a rule under a federal statute. It actually requires an enormous effort,” Holmstead said.

Related People

Jeffrey R. Holmstead

Partner

WASHINGTON, DC

+1.202.828.5852

jeff.holmstead@bracewell.com

Related Practices

[Environment, Lands and](#)

[Resources](#)

[Government Relations](#)

[Strategic Communications](#)