

HOW THE BEAVERCRACY DOES ITS JOB

We know that Congress creates regulatory bodies that focus on stuff such as agriculture or fire safety or energy. When some part of the b.cracy is created, it is charged with the power needed to conduct its task. While this power is inherently present in all bodies, it is most prevalent in regulatory agencies.

Congress essentially delegates power to a group of experts and allows them to enforce their section of the law (through fines, jail time, etc.) These are usually directed at groups such as corporations, not individuals.

The use of power and enforcement is known as COMPLIANCE MONITORING.

INTERACTION WITH CONGRESS

Since the people who run these agencies are experts, they are frequently asked to come to Congress and committee friends to provide input using their knowledge. An example being the FBI testifying before Congress about its investigation into 2017 election interference.

Furthermore, the people who run these agencies also frequently work with individual lawmakers so they can cooperate to pass advised legislation, convince Congress to fund that agency, etc.

INTERACTION WITH INTEREST GROUPS

Interest groups are able to donate to lawmakers in order to push their agendas. The triangular relationship between the interest group, the advisor, and the lawmaker is strong; it is known as an IRON TRIANGLE. The executive branch has an incentive to help the legislative branch (because that's where their funding comes from), the legislative branch has good legislation, and interest groups get what they want.

ISSUE NETWORKS

Issue networks are relationships between lawmakers, advocates, interest groups, local leaders, smart people, etc. that all work towards a certain interest. While they may not always agree they cooperate often to push for policy. The influence of industry and the growing number of interests has built this network up and up over time.