



1980 Ryan 2022

Ryan Walsh Martel

November 11, 1980 — March 4, 2022

Ryan Walsh Martel, 41, died on March 4th, 2022, at his home in Concord, Massachusetts, surrounded by his loving family, nearly two years after he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Ryan was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, and grew up in Conway, Massachusetts. He graduated from Deerfield Academy (class of 1999), and attended Bowdoin College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and literature. He received his master's degree in public policy with a concentration in environmental regulatory policy from Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Until illness forced his departure, Ryan was the senior director of the federal policy team at Ceres in Boston, focused on working with the Ceres Policy Network of companies and investors to press for comprehensive federal, state, and international climate and clean energy policy.

Prior to that, he served as the energy and climate policy advisor to Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, and then for Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii, helping shape legislation around issues of energy and climate policy, eventually serving as Staff Director for the Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure, where he focused on energy tax policy.

Ryan is survived by his wife of twelve years, Katherine Douglas Martel, a son, Finnegan (aged 7), a daughter Olivia (4), his parents, Garrick Martel and Mary Walsh Martel of Conway, his sister Cyntia (Ron), nephews Urijah, Ezra, Neven, nephews Connor, Liam and Rowan, as well as by many aunts, uncles, cousins and a wide circle of friends and colleagues, all of whom will miss him terribly.

Ryan will be remembered by his many friends for his courage, his wry humor, his love of nature, the depth and breadth of his knowledge of pop culture, his love of music (especially Pearl Jam and all things 90s) and, above all, for his abiding love for his family.

He greatly enjoyed travel and had a strong connection to the coast of Maine, which he visited every summer of his life, and abroad: he and Katie enjoyed an unforgettable

around-the-world trip in 2013.

He was passionate about energy policy and reducing the impact of climate change for the sake of future generations. He was also a connoisseur of Dr. Pepper, the Red Sox and Celtics, science-fiction films, excellent live music, any artistic or athletic endeavor undertaken by his children, and nonfiction books.

The family is grateful to the Neuro-Oncology team at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for their superb care, and for the dedication and support of the home care team in Concord.

**Furthermore, background information adapted from a Ceres
announcement**

<https://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/ceres-announces-new-fellowship-program-honor-esteemed-and-beloved>

In honor of its longtime colleague Ryan Martel, the sustainability nonprofit Ceres announced a new fellowship program today for the next generation of rising stars in the field of policy.

Ryan passed away on March 4, 2022, after a two-year battle with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. He was 41 years old. Ryan was the senior director of federal policy at Ceres and led a dynamic team that organized federal climate policy advocacy efforts and mobilized strong investor and corporate support for an array of bipartisan, legislative measures. The new fellowship will advance the many initiatives that Ryan spearheaded at Ceres, while supporting individuals in the initial stages of their policy careers to be effective voices for change. Fellows will support Ceres and its networks of investors and companies in driving equitable and market-based policy solutions to the growing climate crisis.

“Ryan demonstrated steadfast dedication to bipartisan climate policy advocacy. He always went beyond the extra mile to mobilize the private sector and bring both sides of the aisle together,” said **Mindy Lubber, Ceres CEO and President**. “His collegiality, strategic insights and political acumen led to long-lasting, positive change within Ceres, on Capitol Hill, and in the boardrooms of Fortune 500s. With his legacy and accomplishments in mind, we hope to inspire a new generation of policy leaders through the Ryan Martel Fellowship program.”

Ryan joined Ceres in the summer of 2015 and changed its policy advocacy work forever. Fresh off Capitol Hill, Ryan brought a deep expertise of the legislative process and critical climate and clean energy legislation and carbon pricing mechanisms. In 2019, Ryan spearheaded the first-ever [Lawmaker Education and Advocacy Day \(LEAD\) on Carbon Pricing](#), which was at the time the largest ever corporate call for climate action on Capitol Hill, with more than 75 companies participating in-person. Today, LEAD on Climate mobilizes hundreds of businesses and investors and remains the largest annual gathering of financial leaders committed to robust climate legislation.

Ryan also [developed and published Ceres' carbon pricing principles](#), clarifying the organization's public position on the issue for the first time. And he led Ceres' bench of business leader advocates to support a range of other initiatives, from phasing down hydrofluorocarbons, to climate-smart agriculture, to mandatory climate risk disclosure.

"As Ryan's parents, we feel incredibly honored to have had Ryan in our lives for as long as we did," said **Mary Walsh-Martel and Garick Martel**. "We are so proud of the legacy he has left."

"Ryan was a brilliant climate policy advocate who won respect and admiration from both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill," said **Anne Kelly, Ceres' vice president for government relations**. "Since 2015, he brought his depth of expertise and analytical skills (not to mention his dry sense of humor) to Ceres where he took our federal policy work to new heights. Ryan had a heart that was as big as his brain. We hope that this fellowship in his name will inspire hundreds more to embrace a career in public sector leadership."

Prior to Ceres, Ryan served as the energy and climate policy advisor to U.S. Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii, focusing on clean energy deployment, energy efficiency, and international climate negotiations. He also worked for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico from 2009 to 2013, eventually serving as the staff director for the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, where he focused on energy tax policy. Ryan received his master's degree in public policy with a concentration in environmental regulatory policy from Georgetown University and received his bachelor's degree in history and literature from Bowdoin College.

Ryan's passion for climate policy advocacy stretches far beyond his work in the halls of Congress or the board rooms of Fortune 500 companies. An avid hiker and naturalist, he always loved the outdoors. Ryan was grounded in the goal of building a more

sustainable world for his family, friends, and colleagues. Above all, his wife Katie and his two children, Finn and Livvy, meant the world to him.

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working with the most influential capital market leaders to solve the world's greatest sustainability challenges. Through our powerful networks and global collaborations of investors, companies and nonprofits, we drive action and inspire equitable market-based and policy solutions throughout the economy to build a just and sustainable future.