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Prior to joining the Institute, Mike led the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where he served as President Obama's primary environmental advisor. In that capacity, he was responsible for collaborating with members of the Cabinet to develop and implement the Administration's environmental, climate, clean energy, and conservation policies. He chaired the President's Task Force on climate resilience to better prepare our communities and infrastructure for future climate impacts and led the Administration's federal sustainability initiative to reduce energy use and pollution across the federal government.

Prior to his service at the White House, Mike held a variety of positions related to energy and the environment at a public affairs firm, for the Governor of California, in the non-profit sector and in the Clinton Administration. He has a B.A. in communications from UCLA and a Master's Degree from the Maxwell School of Public Affairs at Syracuse University.