

Cass R. Sunstein

*Is Cost-Benefit Analysis for Everyone?*

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Abstract by Lisa Hodes

In this article, the author supports a role for cost-benefit analysis (CBA) in government decision-making. But, the author cautions “CBA will sometimes fail CBA.” Here, the author highlights some strong objections against CBA, but concludes that the objections to CBA should be used to strengthen CBA instead of eliminating it.

Some of the strongest objections to CBA involve institutional issues. The author attacks an alternative to CBA, the system of aspirations-and-implementations. Similarly, the author pits the notion that regulations should be “feasible” against CBA. The author concludes that bottom-line numbers should not be decisive; rather, a more qualitative understanding of the situation should be undertaken.