



=====**DRAFT**=====

(January 26, 2009)

Resolution Number 09-xx
Approved (date)
Alexandria, VA

As certified by
R. Steven Brown
Executive Director

**STATE/EPA COMMITMENT TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION
THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK**

WHEREAS, ECOS has endorsed the State/EPA Vision and Operating Principles for Environmental Information Management via ECOS Resolution 98-6, and

WHEREAS, states and U.S. EPA have committed to using the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network) as the preferred method for sharing environmental information among partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$133 million in grant funds from FY2002–FY2008 to develop the capacity of states, tribes, and territories to participate in the Exchange Network and provide for collective administrative needs; and

WHEREAS, all 50 states and many tribes and territories have invested significant resources to establish a presence on the Exchange Network; and

WHEREAS, states and U.S. EPA have not fully implemented the Exchange Network as their preferred means for sharing environmental data in any program area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

ECOS endorses the continued joint governance of the Exchange Network through the Exchange Network Leadership Council and the Network Operations Board; and

ECOS calls on U.S. EPA to join states in a renewed commitment to the Exchange Network by strongly encouraging state and U.S. EPA program offices to expeditiously adopt the Exchange Network as the preferred means of sharing environmental information across all program areas; and

ECOS calls on U.S. EPA to work with states to set an aggressive timetable for achieving a complete transition to the Exchange Network for regulatory flows based on the readiness of state and U.S. EPA program offices; and

ECOS asks all U.S. EPA program offices to establish bi-directional data exchanges by making their environmental information available to authorized users through the Exchange Network; and

ECOS recognizes that U.S. EPA will need to maintain direct access to EPA data systems for states that use those data systems as their official systems of record.