

September 25, 2015



THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL OF  
THE STATES

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Commissioner, Minnesota  
Pollution Control Agency  
VICE PRESIDENT

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Robert Martineau  
Commissioner, Tennessee  
Department of Environment  
and Conservation  
PAST PRESIDENT

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Alexandra Dapolito Dunn  
Executive Director &  
General Counsel

Dear ECOS Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as ECOS' President for 2015 - 2016. It is a privilege to work with you to ensure that the voice of states is brought to bear on evolving policy and regulatory matters, and to federal agencies, diverse interest groups, and Congress. Excellent and dedicated officers - Bob Martineau (TN), John Linc Stine (MN), and Elizabeth Dieck (SC) - join me in serving you. This letter highlights focus areas that, with your help and support, we will advance through ECOS in the coming year.

*ENRICHING ENERGY SECTOR CONNECTIONS.* Our nation's population is growing, its energy needs are changing, technology is advancing, and the public is seeking more information about the impacts of their energy choices on the environment. As a result, as environmental regulators, we are compelled to cultivate deeper and more nimble relationships with our colleagues in the energy, oil and gas, and public utility commission sectors. We will emphasize building organizationally rich relationships with ECOS' peer organizations in these fields. We will continue to enhance our collaborations with the U.S. Department of Energy. ECOS' Shale Gas Caucus will be moving into a new exciting phase, and its work will be valuable.

*WORKING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PEERS.* Our choices and decisions are impacted daily by facts, assertions, and concerns surrounding public health. We can carry out our responsibilities in a more effective manner with greater understanding of, and connection to, our peers in environmental health. Again, we will place emphasis on ECOS' work with state environmental health leaders, and on identifying a joint effort that can benefit the public.

*SETTING A COURSE FOR ECOS' FUTURE.* ECOS' membership and the activities on which we work are both extremely dynamic, making a clear vision for the organization essential to its future. At the Fall Meeting in Newport, RI, we began the process of developing a Strategic Plan for ECOS and the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS). Through dialogue with ECOS members, external partners, and other groups, we will develop, vet, and adopt a Strategic Plan by the April 2016 Spring Meeting. This Plan will stretch to 2020, and serve as a key tool to inform our resource and substantive choices going forward.

*ENERGIZING OUR MEMBERS.* States and territories differ in size, environmental challenges, and politics - but as individuals we have many responsibilities and duties in common. ECOS calls, meetings, and other forums are now - but can be even more - energizing, inclusive, and empowering events. We all obtain great value from the side conversations, relationships, and best practices shared between members through ECOS. ECOS membership is a "must have" tool in the toolbox for state commissioners - and we will find new and interesting ways to demonstrate that value.

I look forward to hearing from you as we move ahead. I have no doubt that, with our continued collaboration, we will accomplish these goals and continue to excel as a resource and advocate for the states.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Rudolph, ECOS President  
Director of Environmental Programs  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment