



July 30, 2013

Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nita M. Lowey,
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: State Views on Proposed EPA 2014 Budget

THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL OF
THE STATES

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Teresa Marks
Director, Arkansas Department of
Environmental Quality
PRESIDENT

Dick Pedersen
Director, Oregon Department of
Environmental Quality
VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Martineau
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of
Environment and Conservation
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Thomas Burack
Commissioner, New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services
PAST PRESIDENT

Dear Committee Leadership:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national non-profit, non-partisan association of the states' environmental agencies, about the proposed budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fiscal year 2014.

States appreciate that the House Sub-Committee did not include rescissions in EPA's budget. States also appreciate proposed funding for hazardous waste electronic manifest system implementation, a component of EPA's larger E-Enterprise effort.

States, however, are disappointed to see the EPA singled out for the largest cuts by percentage of any agency. We are particularly concerned about proposed cuts within the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for Categorical Grants and for Infrastructure Assistance to Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF).

Cutting funding for Categorical Grants is not cutting EPA's funding, it is cutting support to the states that implement the various environmental statutes enacted by Congress on behalf of the federal government.

Cuts of this magnitude – which could very well be followed by sequestration cuts later – impose an unfunded mandate on states and their cities. Proposed funding cuts to Categorical Grants of almost 20% undermine core federal funding to states for permit reviews, monitoring, field inspection, and enforcement for programs such as water and non-point pollution control, air pollution control, hazardous waste, public water systems, and information management. The proposed funding cuts also withdraw the primary source of infrastructure funds used to assist cities in complying with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Cuts to the two SRFs especially affect small, minority, and impoverished towns which have no other recourse but use of SRFs to comply with federal law.

State environmental agency leaders are understandably concerned about the federal government's commitment to environmental protection, and about the public health consequences should this budget pass.

Please reduce the size of this cut, especially within STAG for core Categorical Grants funding to states and for SRF funding for community clean and drinking water infrastructure.

Sincerely yours,

R. Steven Brown
Executive Director

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