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Alexandra Dapolito Dunn  
Executive Director &  
General Counsel

February 22, 2016

Dear ECOS Colleagues:

I hope you are looking forward to attending the 2016 ECOS Spring Meeting, planned for April 11 – 13 in Nashville, Tennessee. I am pleased to be facilitating the states-only *Natural Resources Forum (Forum)* from 1:15 to 3:15 pm on Wednesday, April 13, and with this letter I specifically invite you to attend.

The *Forum* began as a periodic gathering of the ECOS members serving in joint agencies of environment and natural resources. However, over time, the *Forum* has evolved such that it addresses cross-cutting and important issues that are relevant to all of you – even if the natural resources jurisdiction in your state lies at another agency.

This year's *Forum* agenda includes a discussion of productive structures to coordinate environmental and natural resource issues. We also will hear three case studies from ECOS members of large projects where the integration of natural resource and environmental topics was front and center – situations involving mining, construction of recreational facilities, and extensive species protection efforts. We will reflect on the involvement of tribal governments in policy discussions. Related to this, we have invited a senior U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official to join us for part of the *Forum* to discuss EPA's planned rulemaking to establish baseline water quality standards (WQS) under the Clean Water Act for waters on Indian reservations that currently do not have EPA-approved WQS in place. Finally, we will discuss strategies for improving agency relationships and communication with all stakeholders – from the regulated community, to potential natural resource users, to the public.

To access the latest agenda for the entire meeting and to register, please visit <http://ecos.org/section/events/?id=4934>. If you have any questions or need additional information please have your staff contact ECOS' Alexandra Dunn at (202) 266-4929 or [adunn@ecos.org](mailto:adunn@ecos.org). I look forward to seeing you at the *Forum*!

Best Regards,

Secretary Cathy Stepp  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources