



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

## **Statement on Congress Passing TSCA Reform Legislation**

*Washington, DC* – The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) commends Congress for its passage of the “*Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*,” bringing up to date the forty-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act.

“States had many issues of concern to them, which we expressed continually throughout the nearly decade long negotiations,” said Martha Rudolph, ECOS’ President and Director of Environmental Programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. “ECOS commends the members of Congress who worked hard to ensure that states’ rights to protect their citizens while EPA conducts risk assessments remains, and that existing state programs to manage chemicals are preserved,” added Rudolph.

ECOS Vice President, Commissioner of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency John Linc Stine added, “This bill represents an impressive step forward from current law and will increase safety for all Americans. Much of the challenge that lies before us now is in the implementation of this law. We seek a collaborative dialogue with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and all stakeholders to ensure that this legislation reaches its full potential to make a difference.”

Executive Director and General Counsel Alexandra Dunn noted that going forward ECOS will “share information regarding the new law and its effect on states, and to document how it works in practice as it is implemented, so that state learning and is advanced.” ECOS plans a July All Member briefing call on the new TSCA, as well as a plenary session at its Fall Meeting set for September 25-27 in West Virginia, as supportive steps to keep this focus.

*ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. For more information see [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org).*