



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS)

## **ERIS Announces 2016-2017 Leadership**

***Wheeling, West Virginia*** – The Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) is pleased to announce that David Paylor, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, has been elected to a second term as ERIS President. Bob King, former Deputy Commissioner of South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control has been elected to a second term as ERIS Vice President.

“ERIS is focused on strengthening the research partnership between the states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and working to improve communication of science to address the critical environmental and public health issues faced by states today,” said Paylor. Among current projects, through the members of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), ERIS is seeking to identify the top environmental and public health science challenges faced by state environmental protection agencies. ERIS will then work with EPA’s Office of Research and Development (ORD) to align some of its work to address the state’s concerns.

On behalf of the Board, Paylor expressed ERIS’ thanks to Leo Drozdoff, Director of the Nevada Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and to Sara Parker Pauley, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, for their ERIS Board service. Drozdoff and Pauley are leaving the Board as they pursue new professional opportunities. State environmental commissioners will be appointed to the ERIS Board to fill these two positions in the coming weeks.

Continuing in service on the ERIS board with Paylor and King are William “Bill” Holman, North Carolina State Director of the Conservation Fund; Chris Jones, Senior Counsel, Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP, Ohio, and John Mitchell, Director of Division of Environment, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

*ERIS, a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), coordinates environmental research priorities among ECOS members, federal government agencies, and key partners with environmental research and management interests. ERIS also works to ensure that this research is shared with states in a practical, applicable manner.*

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