



PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

State Environmental Commissioners Elect New Leaders

Wheeling, West Virginia – The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is pleased to announce our new officers for 2016-2017 elected today at the ECOS Fall Meeting:

- ❖ President John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency;
- ❖ Vice President Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; and
- ❖ Secretary-Treasurer Sara Parker Pauley, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Martha Rudolph, Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, rounds out the officer roster as Past President. Due to professional obligations, Director Parker Pauley will be unable to serve, and a special election for the Secretary-Treasurer position will be held during the remainder of the Fall Meeting.

During this time of transition, the priority of the ECOS officers and Executive Committee is to build strong relationships with incumbent officials and to carry the voice of state environmental agencies to decision makers in the new administration, as well as to Congress, the business community, and non-governmental organizations. ECOS' *Priority Areas for a Time of Political Transition* and *2016-2020 Strategic Plan* will serve as key guideposts.

President Stine's areas of focus will include tracking the impacts and progress of environmental programs and more effectively communicating these outcomes to the public. He also will work to advance *E-Enterprise for the Environment* and other business process improvement techniques designed to run environmental programs more efficiently, and to increase transparency between the public and local, state, and federal governments. In addition, Stine and ECOS want to advance meaningful conversations around water infrastructure funding, particularly for communities in distress. Finally, through varied engagements, Stine will endeavor to identify and share effective strategies for advancing equity in decision-making and policy-setting.

ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. For more information see www.ecos.org.