



THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL OF
THE STATES

50 F Street, N.W.
Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20001

Tel: (202) 266-4920
Fax: (202) 266-4937
Email: ecos@ecos.org
Web: www.ecos.org

John Linc Stine

Commissioner, Minnesota
Pollution Control Agency
PRESIDENT

Todd Parfitt

Director, Wyoming Department
of Environmental Quality
VICE PRESIDENT

Becky Keogh

Director, Arkansas Department
of Environmental Quality
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Martha Rudolph

Director of Environmental
Programs, Colorado
Department of Public Health
and Environment
PAST PRESIDENT

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn

Executive Director &
General Counsel

September 28, 2016

Dear ECOS Members:

I am honored to serve as ECOS' 2016-2017 President. We have exciting months ahead as a dozen states elect new governors and our nation selects its next President. During these times of transition, it will be the priority of ECOS' Officers and Executive Committee 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 in Congress, the business community, and non-governmental organization groups. ECOS' *Priority Areas for a Time of Political Transition* and *2016-2020 Strategic Plan* will be key guideposts as we go forward. Consistent with these documents, with your support, I also will emphasize the following efforts and initiatives during my term.

SHOW THE RESULTS OF OUR WORK. States are better when the public is engaged in our work and when we can explain how our agency activities, programs, regulations, and services protect their health and deliver the clean and healthy environment they desire. Launched this spring with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ECOS' *State Measures Project* will identify common metrics and measures that tell the state story on how we are delivering air that is clean to breathe, water that is safe for drinking and recreation, land that is clean and productive, decreasing waste streams, and fostering healthy economies. Using infographics and clear descriptions, we hope to tell the state story in a way that complements our federal partners own narrative. Our ambitious goal is to release the inaugural annual ECOS State Measures Project report, with 15 to 20 participating states in the first year.

INNOVATION, PRODUCTIVITY, & COLLABORATION. Through E-Enterprise for the Environment, ECOS' State Business Process Improvement (BPI) Exchanges, and ECOS' BPI report and database, we will continue to share and learn from one another and EPA ways to conduct our work more efficiently, effectively, and to leverage technologies. Innovative approaches further environmental progress and enhance transparency for all members of our nation's environmental protection enterprise.

IMPROVING WATER THROUGH INVESTMENT & COMMUNICATION. States are better when we have the tools and capacity to support our communities' provision of water that is safe to drink and surface waters that provide clean source water, recreational opportunities, and natural beauty. ECOS will meaningfully contribute to the national conversation on water and communities in need, and work with partners to improve our collective communication about drinking and surface water quality and risks.

ADVANCING EQUITY AT ALL LEVELS. This year, ECOS worked to connect with other professionals, such as those in public health, who share our goal of protecting people through better ambient environmental conditions. ECOS will strive to advance results that best protect all citizens in our organization's engagement with others.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year. I am confident that with your involvement and ideas ECOS will achieve these goals and continue to excel as a resource and advocate for the states.

Sincerely,

John Linc Stine

Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

ECOS President