



# PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS)

## **ERIS Appoints Two New Board Members**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) is pleased to welcome Paul Mercer, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and Martha Rudolph, Director of Environmental Programs at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, to its Board of Directors. Mercer and Rudolph's appointments, approved by the Environmental Council of the States' Executive Committee, fill vacancies arising from the departure from state service of Sara Parker Pauley of Missouri and Leo Drozdoff of Nevada.

ERIS is responsible for the coordination of environmental research needs and priorities between states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD), as well as for the fiscal oversight of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council, an ECOS affiliate that develops tools to reduce interstate barriers to the deployment of innovative environmental technologies. Among current projects, ERIS is compiling a summary of the most pressing challenges faced by state environmental agencies. ERIS will work with ORD to address these concerns, the top of which are water quality, ozone, toxics, and remediation and changing standards.

Mercer and Rudolph join other ERIS Board Members: President David Paylor of Virginia; Vice President Bob King, formerly of South Carolina; Secretary-Treasurer John Mitchell of Kansas; Bill Holman, formerly of North Carolina and current North Carolina State Director at The Conservation Fund; and Chris Jones, formerly of Ohio and current Senior Counsel at Calfee, Halter, & Griswold LLP.

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*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. Visit [www.ecos.org/eris](http://www.ecos.org/eris).*