



THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL OF  
THE STATES

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

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Tel: (202) 266-4920  
Email: [ecos@ecos.org](mailto:ecos@ecos.org)  
Web: [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org)

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**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

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**Alexandra Dapolito Dunn**

Executive Director &  
General Counsel

June 12, 2017

Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
204 Cannon House Office Building

Honorable Garret Graves  
Chairman, House Transportation &  
Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water  
Resources & Environment  
430 Cannon House Office Building

Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Energy & Commerce  
2185 Rayburn House Office Building

Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Environment  
2217 House Rayburn Office Building

Honorable Lamar S. Smith  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Science, Space, & Technology  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building

Honorable Andy Biggs  
Chairman, House Science, Space, &  
Technology Subcommittee on Environment  
1626 House Longworth Office Building

Via e-mail transmittal

Dear Representatives:

As the U.S. Congress deliberates the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) authorizations and appropriations, we write to you on behalf of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. We think there should be a dialogue about, and recalibration of, state and federal roles in environmental management and public health protection. We believe there is urgency for this dialogue and recalibration so that it can inform upcoming decisions on the federal budget for EPA, and statutes administered by EPA and through cooperative federalism with the states. We have already begun a dialogue with EPA and we look forward to beginning a similar dialogue with the US Congress.

To inform this dialogue, ECOS produced and is transmitting for your use [Cooperative Federalism 2.0: Achieving and Maintaining a Clean Environment and Protecting Public Health](#). This document outlines a vision for what environmental protection cooperative federalism means to the states and articulates the key roles and functions that describe the essence of a fruitful productive state/federal relationship. We believe the effort to recalibrate the state/federal environmental regulatory relationship if properly conducted and concluded would result in:

Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building

Honorable Grace Napolitano  
Ranking Member, House Transportation &  
Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water  
Resources & Environment  
1610 House Longworth Office Building

Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Energy & Commerce  
237 Cannon House Office Building

Honorable Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member, House Energy &  
Commerce Subcommittee on Environment  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building

Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Science, Space, & Technology  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building

Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
Ranking Member, House Science, Space, &  
Technology Subcommittee on Environment  
439 Cannon House Office Building

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- Equal or greater environmental and public health protection and outcomes through smart deployment of resources on critical priorities;
- Reduced operating costs due to a more efficient division of services, streamlined operating relationships, best practice sharing and elimination of redundancies across states and divisions of EPA;
- More effective allocation of limited resources by determining the best roles and functions states and the EPA are each best suited to perform; and,
- With time, fewer disputes over who should take credit for successes and achievements, and who is responsible for decisions and actions that result in set-backs.

Healthy and vibrant communities and economies rely upon on effective environmental and public health protection. We believe that a relationship with the federal government that empowers each party to do what we each do best serves the public and environment best. A recalibration of state and federal roles is needed to create and implement environmental protection programs worthy of 21st century challenges.

We will keep you informed about the progress of our dialogue with EPA and we look forward to our dialogue with you. Again, on behalf of the officers and members of ECOS, I thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact me, any of ECOS' Officers, or ECOS' Alexandra Dunn with questions.

On behalf of the ECOS Officers and Membership,



John Linc Stine  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
ECOS President

Attachment

CC: House Energy & Commerce Committee Members  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Members