



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, June 12, 2017

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Cooperative Federalism 2.0 Release Focuses on State-U.S. EPA Roles for More Effective Environmental, Public Health Protection

Washington, DC – The Environmental Council of States (ECOS) today released a vision recasting state and federal roles for environmental management and public health protection at lower cost. “We are responding to Administrator Pruitt’s invitation for a conversation between U.S. EPA and the states on how to more effectively work together,” said ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Becky Keogh, Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. “The timing is perfect for this dialogue given the capabilities of states following four decades of environmental program operation.”

State environmental agencies are responsible for implementing most state and national environmental protection statutes, having assumed more than 96% of the programs they are authorized to implement under federal law. “The roles and responsibilities of state and federal environmental regulators today don’t sufficiently leverage the maturity and sophistication of state environmental programs, and often don’t provide the flexibility necessary to account for unique local ecological, social, and economic conditions,” added ECOS President John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

ECOS’ [Cooperative Federalism 2.0: Achieving and Maintaining a Clean Environment and Protecting Public Health](#) shows a reframing of state and federal roles needed to create and implement environmental protection programs worthy of 21st century challenges. Among other positive changes, this recasting will result in:

- 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 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 setbacks.

“States are eager to engage all interested parties, especially EPA and Congress, in a conversation on how the states and the federal government perform their roles and how we can best protect the environment and public health of our great nation,” added ECOS Vice President Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

ECOS’ State Environmental Protection (STEP) meeting on July 17 will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in the Cooperative Federalism 2.0 dialogue. Registration is now open on our [website](#).

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