



THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL OF
THE STATES

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John Linc Stine

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Department of Public Health
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Alexandra Dapolito Dunn

Executive Director &
General Counsel

June 12, 2017

Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
172 Russell Senate Office Building

Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
530 Hart Senate Office Building

Via e-mail transmittal

Dear Senators:

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:

- 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,

June 12, 2017

Page 2 of 2

- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Linc Stine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Linc Stine
Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
ECOS President

Attachment

CC: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Members