

September 12, 2017

Dear ECOS Members:

It is an honor to serve as ECOS President as the organization enters its 25th Anniversary year. Together, we will have an opportunity to recognize and build upon ECOS' record of contributing to and engaging in the most challenging environmental issues of our time. ECOS' opportunity to refine and clarify state and federal roles and responsibilities in our system of environmental and public health protection, to foster economic vitality, and to garner the human, intellectual, and financial capital needed to support our work is significant and pressing. With the Officers and Executive Committee, ECOS will continue to build robust relationships with new political appointees in relevant federal agencies, and to bring state environmental agency leaders' perspectives to decision makers in government, Congress, and in communities nationwide. We will continue to implement ECOS' *2016-2020 Strategic Plan*, and with your support I also will emphasize the following efforts and initiatives.

APPLYING AND EXPANDING COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM 2.0. ECOS' 2.0 campaign is reorienting the state-U.S. Environmental Protection Agency relationship, reducing overlap and duplication and advancing effectiveness, moving us to an outcomes oriented approach to environmental protection. We will seek to expand the 2.0 framework to our work with other federal agencies – such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the Departments of Agriculture and Energy, and the Department of Interior and its related bureaus. We can make a meaningful improvement in these federal relationships, particularly if we enhance ECOS' work with sister state organizations.

MEASURING AND ASSESSING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. ECOS is deeply committed to business process improvement work, and in this arena we will continue to ensure that state processes, and those we carry out with EPA and other agencies, are lean, effective, modern and outcome focused. ECOS will share replicable and innovative ideas, advance various audit systems, engage significantly with E-Enterprise for the Environment, and seek to better define metrics. We also will take the next step and ask whether our efforts are accomplishing what we set out to achieve, if we still need a process, and whether we are we obtaining the desired result.

TELLING OUR STORY. Speaking of results, as *ECOSResults.org* builds out during this year, we will concurrently enhance our collective capacity to tell the state environmental outcomes story. We will find proactive ways to engage with the public and media and better understand our audiences and media venues.

ENGAGING IN THE ENERGY CONVERSATION. In *Priority Areas for a Time of Political Transition*, ECOS commits to being a part of the national energy conversation. This year we will renew our focus on this area and find opportunities to meaningfully contribute to the evolved conversation of how energy interfaces with our core work. Highlighting how state environmental agencies are playing key roles in energy innovation will be a part of this effort, as will expanding regional, national, and stakeholder relationships.

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,



Todd Parfitt
Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS President



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