



PRESS STATEMENT

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

ECOS Announces New Executive Director

Washington, DC – The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) announced today that Sambhav (Sam) Sankar has been named its new Executive Director and General Counsel, effective March 12. Sankar brings a broad background in environmental issues, from pollution control to engineering design to government relations.

“Sam is a seasoned leader in the environmental field with experience in the federal government, industry, and private legal practice. His varied background prepares him well to lead ECOS as it pursues key initiatives like Cooperative Federalism 2.0 and E-Enterprise for the Environment,” said ECOS President Todd Parfitt, Director of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. “The ECOS leadership looks forward to working with him to advance the states’ and territories’ role in environmental and public health protection.”

Sankar comes to ECOS from The Nature Conservancy, where he served as Senior Advisor for technology and innovation strategy. Previously, he served as Senior Executive Counsel and Director of Environment, Health, and Safety Operations at General Electric, as a litigator with the U.S. Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Presidential Oil Spill Commission, and as Counsel at Wilmer Hale. He clerked for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor at the U.S. Supreme Court. Sankar began his career as an environmental engineer with the consulting firm Radian International.

“I was drawn to ECOS because of the critical role that states and territories play in protecting public health and the environment,” said Sankar. “They need a strong voice in Washington, because they take the lead in implementing many of our foundational regulatory programs. States and territories also serve as ‘laboratories of democracy’ for our nation, and I’m excited to help them share best practices and drive progress at the federal level.”

Sankar holds a J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley, an M.S. from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University, and a B.S. from the College of Engineering at Cornell University.

He succeeds Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, who departed ECOS in January 2018 to become the U.S. EPA Region 1 Regional Administrator.

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ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders.