



Environmental Council of the States

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October 5, 2018

Dear ECOS Members:

It is with great humility and honor that I begin my service as the 2018–2019 President of the Environmental Council of the States. What an incredible opportunity we have to come together in this quarter century of our cooperation and commitment to ECOS as we continue addressing the ever-changing and challenging issue of environmental policy. Our challenges are at the same time unique to our states and universal to our larger national community.

At this important time in our nation, ECOS has managed to speak with one voice and lead from commonality of concern anchored in reason and research rather than divisive rhetoric. In that respect, ECOS' reputation for problem solving that is built on commonality of challenges and a shared commitment to seeking a path forward is one that resonates with the citizens of our states and the policy makers of our nation.

Through the respected, collective voice of ECOS we have changed the course of our relationship with our federal counterparts. Our organization has advanced a return to a more robust understanding of cooperative federalism. Attributable to ECOS' efforts, this state-federal partnership is no longer an abstract academic construct, it is a working reality.

During the past few years, we have made great strides in reestablishing a paradigm of regulatory cooperation with our federal counterparts. The progress achieved by ECOS in this effort, in such a protracted time frame, is nothing short of profound. From here, with the rich experience and expertise of ECOS' membership, Officers, and Executive Committee, we must shift our focus from seeking a seat at the table to what happens when we arrive.

During the upcoming year, it is my goal to ensure that ECOS uses its newly cemented seat at the table not to sit but to STAND. I will advance a theme of STATE AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE, with not only the Environmental Protection Agency, but other national, environmentally focused agencies, tribal authorities, professional organizations, and the regulated community. We must go beyond asking for our state voices to be heard to a standard operating procedure of shared decision making, shared problem solving, and shared programmatic development.

I look forward to your engagement and hearing your ideas. As state environmental leaders, our work is impactful and our mission is important and lasting. Moving into the next year, our State and National Dialogue will strive to operationalize cooperative federalism 2.0 and new strategic partnerships, increase emphasis on technology as a driver for transformation, and showcase improved environmental outcomes. These priorities show our commitment to advance certainty and confidence in the communities we serve.

In humble service,

Becky W. Keogh
ECOS President

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