



Resolution 16-1
Approved April 11, 2016
Nashville, Tennessee

Renewed April 10, 2019
Arlington, Virginia

Revised April 6, 2022
Asheville, North Carolina

As certified by
Carolyn Hanson
Acting Executive Director

ECOS OPPOSITION TO SET-ASIDES IN STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

WHEREAS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) categorical grants [State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)] to states and territories assist in implementing core water, air, waste, and other programs that carry out federal environmental requirements; and

WHEREAS, categorical grant funding has remained essentially flat since Fiscal Year 2002; and

WHEREAS, set-asides by Congress or the U.S. EPA in the STAG dictate where states and territories spend their grant funding and limit states' and territories' flexibility to effectively implement program activities; and

WHEREAS, set-asides of existing funding could reduce the ability of states and territories to continue to implement environmental programs in the manner that U.S. EPA, states, and territories require by statute without further stressing state and territorial budgets; and

WHEREAS, previous ECOS resolutions have opposed set-asides in Clean Water Act Section 106 grant funding to state and territorial agencies "to administer programs for the prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution;" and

WHEREAS, when federal funding is designated for specific activities by either Congress or U.S. EPA, these set-asides could limit the ability of states and territories to address the expanding number of responsibilities of state and territorial environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, efforts to expand or assign priorities to elements of states' and territories' administration of categorical grant programs are best accomplished through cooperative and open budget planning processes, jointly conducted by U.S. EPA, the states, and territories.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES:

Opposes set-asides of STAG funding provided to states and territories by Congress or U.S. EPA, unless the set-asides are made with state and territorial concurrence and support joint priorities; and

Supports the continuation of routine and meaningful budget planning and priority setting discussions between states, territories, and U.S. EPA that result in agreed upon program enhancements and priorities.