



Environmental Council of the States

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September 8, 2023

Dear ECOS Colleagues:

I'm honored to serve as your new President, work closely and collaboratively with each of you, and make the most of the upcoming year. We have an outstanding team of officers in Vice President Jon Niermann, Secretary-Treasurer Jim Kenney, and Past President Myra Reece, along with a dedicated team of ECOS and Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council staff to help continue our shared learning, advocacy, and growth.

In the tradition of all ECOS Presidents, I'm sharing my priorities for the organization and welcoming your feedback and support.

- **Building State Capacity.** Federal infrastructure funding and regulatory program support for states – the primary implementers and enforcers of the nation's environmental laws – are more important than ever. ECOS will continue to step up its advocacy to Congress and U.S. EPA to increase state categorical grants, protect the water infrastructure state revolving fund programs from harmful funding diversions (such as the growing amount of congressionally directed spending), and ensure states are respected as co-regulators with our federal partners.
- **Funding and Managing PFAS Responsibilities.** ECOS will continue to prioritize our education and advocacy for the science, funding, and regulatory partnerships needed to successfully address PFAS and other emerging contaminants of concern. We'll press for funding and support from EPA, other federal agencies, and Congress to help states meet the challenges of PFAS and build the necessary capacity to ensure the protection of environmental health in all of our communities.
- **Accelerating the Circular Economy.** All levels of government, the private sector, academia, and nongovernmental organizations are seeing the value of sustainable materials management as a strategy to help reduce carbon pollution and other environmental stressors, increase equity and community resilience, and grow the economy. ECOS will continue to emphasize the importance of market-based and customized solutions in each state so that we maximize landfill diversion and ensure materials continue to have productive economic use.
- **Advancing Workforce Innovation and Productivity.** ECOS members benefit when we share information and learn from each other and from our colleagues in the public and private sectors. We'll increase opportunities for identifying best practices and "game-changers" to improve employee recruitment, retention, and retirement planning, as well as "to modernize the business of environmental protection" (a key purpose of E-Enterprise for the Environment and the Exchange Network) through internal and external partnerships.

Elizabeth Biser
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
ECOS President

Jon Niermann
Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality
ECOS Vice President

James Kenney
New Mexico Environment
Department
ECOS Secretary-Treasurer

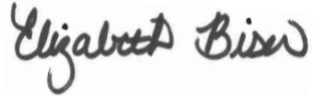
Myra Reece
South Carolina Department of
Health and Environmental Control
ECOS Past President

Ben Grumbles
ECOS Executive Director

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ECOS enjoys the full support of all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and several territories. Our strength lies in our diversity, our unity of purpose, and our well-established culture of bipartisan, consensus-based collaboration. I am committed to sustaining all of those principles, which are integral to succeeding on the four priorities above, and to working with our many partners to achieve these goals. I look forward to the year ahead!

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Biser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth Biser
ECOS President