



PRESS STATEMENT

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

ECOS Comments on U.S. EPA’s Proposed WOTUS Withdrawal

Washington, DC – Responding to U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s proposal today to withdraw the agency’s 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule, ECOS expressed hope for a future collaborative process that ensures protection of human health and the environment.

"Today's proposed rule is a key step in creating an opportunity to develop a regulatory approach to defining waters of the United States in a fully collaborative fashion," said ECOS President John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "We look forward to a productive, results-oriented conversation among states, EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and all stakeholders to provide greater regulatory certainty and clarity, and to ensure that waters are protected by an appropriate allocation of state and federal laws, regulations, programs, and resources."

Last week, ECOS sent Pruitt a [comment letter](#) on the redefinition of waters of the U.S. following the February 2017 Presidential Executive Order on "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule." In the letter, the association requests that EPA and the Corps engage states and other parties with significant interest in the ultimate WOTUS regulation via a negotiated rulemaking.

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ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. For more information see www.ecos.org.