



# ***PRESS STATEMENT***

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Contact: Todd Parfitt, (307) 777-7937 or [todd.parfitt@wyo.gov](mailto:todd.parfitt@wyo.gov)  
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

## **Statement on EPA's FY18-FY22 Strategic Plan and the President's FY19 EPA Budget**

**Washington, DC** – After analyzing EPA's FY18-22 Strategic Plan and the President's FY19 budget for the agency, both released February 12, the leadership of ECOS is expressing optimism for a continued productive partnership between states and EPA. "We are pleased to see cooperative federalism as one of three goals in EPA's strategic plan," says ECOS President Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. "This emphasis reflects the efforts of ECOS to recast state and federal roles for environmental management and public health protection through our [Cooperative Federalism 2.0](#) initiative."

"The plan's support for and embrace of [E-Enterprise for the Environment](#) and its core principles is very encouraging," adds ECOS Vice President and E-Enterprise State Co-Chair Becky Keogh, Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Keogh says that through the joint governance model of E-Enterprise, states look forward to working with EPA and tribes on permitting modernization and process streamlining efforts. She notes that ECOS already has shared input from states for several EPA Lean events.

ECOS' [summary](#) of the President's FY19 EPA budget proposal identifies a cut of more than 16% to State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) with a slight increase to State Revolving Loan Funds and a 44% decrease to Categorical Grants. Taking stock of the Administration's budget proposal and the new EPA strategic plan, Parfitt says, "States look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to ensure that we have appropriate resources to support our role in the national environmental and public health protection system." He expresses support on behalf of ECOS for the reintroduction of the Multipurpose Categorical Grant that provides flexibility to the states to pursue their high-priority issues. In [early input](#) to EPA on the FY19 budget, ECOS had identified these multipurpose grants as one of seven "super-core" Categorical Grants.

Further emphasizing the importance of federal funding to state environmental agencies, ECOS Past President John Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, says "states continue to rely upon STAG and Categorical Grants, as these help assure that we have sufficient resources to sustain ongoing work with EPA to implement federally required activities." [ECOS Green Report: Status of State Environmental Agency Budgets, 2013-2015](#) found that state budgets vary greatly (on average, STAG and Categorical Grants fund 27% of state budgets) but stable federal funding helps provide a measure of certainty.

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