



# ***PRESS STATEMENT***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – September 27, 2019  
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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

## **ECOS Issues Statement on Importance of State-Federal Cooperation**

**Seattle, WA** – Yesterday, ECOS members sent a letter containing the following statement to U.S. EPA Administrator Wheeler.

Constructive, collaborative, and respectful engagement between state and federal governments is an essential element in the protection of our nation’s public health and environment. ECOS, as the nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders, is concerned that recent communications and actions by U.S. EPA are damaging this engagement and eroding our ability to jointly protect our citizens and the environment.

ECOS is seriously concerned about a number of unilateral actions by U.S. EPA that run counter to the spirit of cooperative federalism and to the appropriate relationship between the federal government and the states who are delegated the authority to implement federal environmental statutes.

Recent letters to states and *Federal Register* notices that lacked discussion with and notification to states violate the principles of Cooperative Federalism 2.0.

We are concerned about the lack of advance consultation with states and the impact of these and several other actions on the ability of states to protect human health and the environment, and call on U.S. EPA to return to the appropriate relationship with the states as coregulators under our nation’s environmental protection system.

We respectfully demand that the U.S. EPA Administrator and senior leadership immediately meet with the ECOS leadership team to discuss these concerns.

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*ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. For more information, visit [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org).*