

March 12, 2025

Travis Voyles
Assistant Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Assistant Deputy Administrator Voyles,

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Government Efficiency work together to develop policies for the Executive Order [Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Cost Efficiency Initiative](#), the undersigned organizations urge the Agencies to exempt or establish a streamlined process for approving grant payments to States who work in partnership with EPA, often as co-regulators, to protect human health and the environment.

States implement more than 90% of federal environmental programs including permitting, enforcement, data collection, and other core activities. States effectively and efficiently implement congressionally enacted programs that reduce air pollution, safely manage waste, remediate emerging contamination, clean up legacy hazardous contamination, safeguard environmentally sensitive habitats, prevent water scarcity, protect water quality in rivers, lakes, wetlands and underground aquifers, and respond to and recover from catastrophic disasters. States also implement state-federal partnerships to finance infrastructure to provide safe drinking water, recycled water, wastewater services and stormwater management in thousands of communities around the nation every year.

States depend on reliable access to congressional appropriations awarded by EPA to reimburse costs and expenses for implementation of these shared programs, which deliver promised federal investments in public health. Timely reimbursements are essential for States to achieve and maintain commitments for protecting human health and the environment, which are the foundation of a robust and growing economy and a high standard of living.

As implementation partners and co-regulators of programs embedded in federal law, States should be exempt from a justification process for payments to congressionally authorized, delegated and primacy programs. Unlike other grant recipients, EPA conducts regular oversight of state programs to ensure timely obligation and achievement of program goals. If States must justify payments, an expeditious process with clear and specific criteria is necessary to ensure programs can continue to deliver results for the American people.

Our organizations stand ready to work with EPA to ensure efficient and accountable stewardship of taxpayer funds by the state-managed programs our member agencies and programs implement.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ben Grumbles
Executive Director
Environmental Council of
the States (ECOS)



Alan Roberson
Executive Director
Association of State
Drinking Water
Administrators (ASDWA)



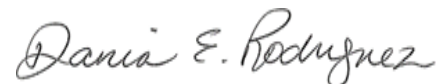
Deirdre Finn
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure
Financing Authorities (CIFA)



Julia Anastasio
Executive Director &
General Counsel
Association of Clean Water
Administrators (ACWA)
Dan Yates



Marla Stelk
Executive Director
National Association of
Wetland Managers (NAWM)



Dania Rodriguez
Executive Director
Association of State and
Territorial Solid Waste
Officials (ASTSWMO)



Executive Director
Ground Water Protection
Council (GWPC)