

Talking Points for Steven Brown, Director, ECOS April 15

1. Welcome - States, Tribes, EPA Offices (ORD, OARM, OSWER, OEI, OW, OECA), EPA Regional Offices, multi-jurisdictional state organizations and others .

2. The Working Relationship with EPA has been a positive experience:

- We have worked together as equal partners on policy, regulations, and on the implementation of environmental laws. Recently, we were invited to play an active part in OECA's National Priority Planning Meeting where National Program Priorities were discussed. ECOS and the states were appreciative of this opportunity to weigh in on the priority selection process.
- Historically - we have supported each other and have worked well together.
- This is why we are co-sponsoring the conference with EPA and ECOS is pleased to be co-sponsoring this 2nd Annual Grant Conference with the US EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

3. Background on ECOS, who they represent, purpose

- State environmental agencies play a significant role in keeping the nation's environment clean .
- ECOS works by connecting states with each other, with our federal partners (like EPA) and others, to help share experiences about how to best manage the environment.

4. Regional and Local Flexibility is essential:

- It is important to have regional and local flexibility because there are significant differences from one Region or state to the next.

5. Final thoughts - ECOS supports this type of Forum - where states, EPA and other Federal partners come together to discuss valuable lessons learned, share innovative techniques that have been successful, and discuss results. Information sharing drives innovation.