



Environmental Council of the States

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Press Release:

Environmental Council of the States Elects Arkansas DEQ Director as President

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Stowe, Vermont, August 31, 2018 – At its 25th Anniversary Fall Meeting, the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) elected Becky Keogh, Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), as 2018-2019 President. ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state environmental agency leaders.

Todd Parfitt, outgoing ECOS President and Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, praised Keogh’s commitment to the environment and cooperative federalism: “In America, states take the lead in implementing our national environmental laws, and Becky is committed to building strong state agencies and a strong federal-state relationship.” Parfitt will serve as ECOS Past President in 2018-2019.

ECOS Executive Director Sam Sankar said he looked forward to working under President Keogh, who has served ECOS as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer in prior years. “Keogh has what it takes to lead ECOS in a way that fosters cooperation and confidence. She brings proven success in driving collaborative approaches and partnerships in multistate and multi-sector initiatives,” says Sankar. “Having spearheaded transformation efforts at the state level, Keogh is positioned to lead ECOS in advancing our state and national dialogue to achieve environmental results.”

Keogh was appointed ADEQ Director in 2015 by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. Prior to her current role, Keogh served as Vice President and Senior Consultant for an international environmental and engineering firm. From 1996 until 2006, Keogh served as Deputy Director of ADEQ and was subsequently appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to serve on the Arkansas Geological Commission from 2006 until 2009.

In addition to Keogh, ECOS members elected Jim Macy, Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, as their Vice President, and Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as their Secretary-Treasurer.

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