



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

## **States Show \$14.4 Billion in 2017 Ready to Go Water Projects**

**Washington, DC** – In recognition of Water Week 2017, ECOS today released a compilation of all 50 state and the District of Columbia's "ready to go" water and wastewater projects in 2017. "This inventory shows \$14.4 billion in specific water needs around the United States, making the need tangible and real to all," said ECOS Executive Director & General Counsel Alexandra Dunn at a Capitol Hill Rally hosted this morning by water advocacy organizations.

Projects in ECOS' inventory range from providing homes with running water and sewer service for the first time in several Alaska communities, to a new wellfield to enable a local farm to expand and provide needed jobs in Newton County, Indiana, to sewer improvements in several Wyoming towns. Importantly, the compilation lists only the top 20 or fewer projects per state, so if all ready to go projects were reported, the dollar total would be even higher for this calendar year. Also, New Jersey's projects are not listed individually and would increase the total.

"ECOS has made water infrastructure investment a top tier issue, addressed in Priority Areas for a Time of Political Transition, said ECOS President John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Stine recently testified on water infrastructure before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment that "states hear every day from our citizens about the value of clean water, adequate flood control, and prevention of pollution. Infrastructure underpins every one of those issues, and we know that a society cannot thrive without clean water. Industry and jobs depend on a reliable water supply and the capacity to process wastewater."

Regarding the recent White House budget proposal that leaves the state revolving loan funds untouched, Stine added, "We appreciate that the important state revolving loan funds are proposed for a one percent increase, and not a decrease," but reiterated that the 44.5 percent proposed cut to the core state programmatic grants – including water permitting and nonpoint source programs – "is frankly unacceptable."

"We are ready to take the information we've collected and work with the Administration to get money to states so that these projects can begin," added Dunn. "There's no time like now to invest in America's water infrastructure – improving communities, economies, public health, and our future."

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