

January 6, 2025

Dear U.S. EPA Transition Team:

As you prepare for the new Administration, we write today to introduce you to the national organizations that represent your state, tribal and local partners and to offer our assistance as the Administration advances an agenda to fulfill the critical mission of EPA to protect public health and the environment. Our organizations offer an efficient and effective way to communicate and collaborate with environmental agencies and programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, territories and tribes.

The nation's environmental laws are based upon the concept of cooperative federalism. Cooperative federalism is key to successful implementation and emphasizes shared priorities, authority, responsibility, and problem-solving opportunities between and among the federal government and its state, tribal and local partners. For cooperative federalism to succeed, state, tribal and local environmental agencies are partners in the shared proposition that was established by Congress to implement the Nation's environmental laws. For example, the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating water quality standards for surface waters. While EPA provides the basic regulatory framework and oversight for the laws, the authorization/delegation structure makes state and local governments directly responsible for implementation of many of the environmental programs.

By its nature, cooperative federalism requires EPA and the state, tribal and locals to work together with stakeholders to identify priorities, solve problems, streamline and modernize environmental programs, enhance and improve overall program performance to meet desired outcomes. The

organizations below stand ready to work with you and your team as you prepare to implement the federal, state, tribal and local environmental agency priorities.

### **The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)**

ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. The purpose of ECOS is to improve the capability of state environmental agencies to protect and improve human health and the environment of the United States of America. [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org).

### **The Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA)**

Founded in 1961, the Association of Clean Water Administrators is the national, nonpartisan, professional organization of State, Interstate and Territorial Administrators responsible for the implementation of surface water protection programs throughout the nation. In addition to serving as a liaison among these officials, the Association facilitates their communication with the Federal government and promotes public education. Long before the enactment of the Clean Water Act, State and Interstate professionals were working to protect and improve water quality. They continue to lead the way in creating and realizing a vision for clean water in America. [www.acwa-us.org](http://www.acwa-us.org).

### **The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)**

Formed in 1984, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is the professional Association serving state, territorial, and tribal drinking water programs. ASDWA provides the information to Congress, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other professional organizations to ensure that public health is protected through safe drinking water. [www.asdwa.org](http://www.asdwa.org).

### **The Western States Water Council**

The Council is a state government entity, an instrumentality of each and every one of our 18 participating states. Created by western governors, Council members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of their respective governors. Our mission is to ensure that the West has an adequate, secure, and sustainable supply of water of suitable quality to meet its diverse economic and environmental needs now and in the future. Water must be recognized as a critical public policy priority given the importance of the resource to our public health, economy, food security, environment, and western way of life. An integrated, collaborative, and grassroots approach to water management is critical to the environmentally sound use of our water resources. See [www.westernstateswater.org](http://www.westernstateswater.org).

### **The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM)**

Founded in 1983, NAWM is the nation's premier organization specifically focused on supporting states and Tribes with their wetland programs. The mission of NAWM is to build capacity for state and tribal members and foster collaboration among the wetland community of practice by encouraging the application of sound science to wetland management and policy, promoting the protection and restoration of wetlands and related

aquatic resources, and providing training and education for members and the general public. [www.nawm.org](http://www.nawm.org).

### **The Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC)**

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC), formed in 1983, is a national association of state and tribal agencies representing several subsurface programs including underground injection control (UIC), oil and gas regulatory agencies, water quality agencies, and many programs that play a role in groundwater protection. The GWPC is the only national association focused on state UIC programs including the Class VI (carbon capture) program. [www.gwpc.org](http://www.gwpc.org).

### **The Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA)**

CIFA is a national not-for-profit organization of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the nation's premier program for building water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment. The SRFs are fiscally responsible, sustainable state-federal partnerships that provide low-cost subsidized loans to build drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and recycled water projects in thousands of communities every year. Because the SRFs are loan programs with matching state funds, cumulative federal funding of \$87 billion has generated \$229 billion in financing for water infrastructure projects since the programs were established, including nearly \$100 million in permanently revolving loan funds for future projects. [www.cifanet.org](http://www.cifanet.org).

### **The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)**

ASTSWMO is an organization representing the 50 States, 5 Territories and the District of Columbia. We were founded on October 22, 1974, in the State of Georgia. Our mission is to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration. [www.astswmo.org](http://www.astswmo.org).

### **The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA), and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)**

AAPCA and NACAA are the two national non-profit, associations that convene and support the state and local air quality agencies that have primary responsibility under the Clean Air Act for implementing our nation's air quality programs. Together, these associations represent our nation's 170 state, local, and territorial air pollution control agencies, and offer technical support, information sharing, and advocacy for our members.

NACAA is based in Washington, D.C. [www.4cleanair.org](http://www.4cleanair.org).

AAPCA is housed in Lexington, KY, as an affiliate of The Council of State Governments.

[www.cleanairact.org](http://www.cleanairact.org).

Because of the way the federal environmental statutes have been written, most state, tribal and local governments are the primary implementers of the nation's environmental laws, regulations and policies; proposed changes to applicable EPA regulations and policies should be developed in collaboration with the states as co-regulators. The complexity of today's environmental challenges

requires robust communication and collaboration to ensure reasonable, balanced, effective and efficient strategies for environmental improvement.

We look forward to working with you and President-Elect Trump's Administration as we move forward together in tackling public health and environmental issues.

Sincerely,



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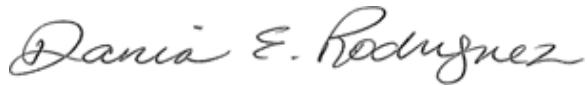
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