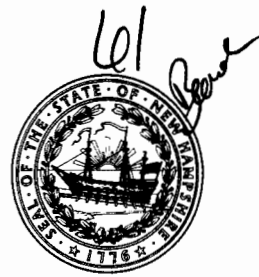




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

October 6, 2016

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to **retroactively** pay the 2017 membership dues to The Environmental Council of the States, (VC # 168853), Baltimore, MD in the amount of \$13,000 for the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

	<u>FY 2017</u>
03-44-44-440010-7601-026-500251	\$13,000.00
Dept of Environmental Services , PPG Carryover, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

This request for dues is **retroactive** because the bill was not received until after the start of the fiscal year. The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is a national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. The purpose of ECOS is to improve the capacity of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment. State government agencies are the keys to delivering environmental protection afforded by both federal and state law. Further, ECOS plays a critical role in facilitating a quality relationship between federal and state agencies in the fulfillment of that mission. That role is defined as:

- Articulate, advocate, preserve and champion the role of the states in environmental management;
- Provide for the exchange of ideas, views and experiences among states and with others;
- Foster cooperation and coordination in environmental management; and
- Articulate state positions to Congress, federal agencies, and the public on environmental issues.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:


- **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** The organization has been in existence since 1993 and New Hampshire has been a member since 1995.

- **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** This is the only organization that provides the highest level (agency commissioner or secretary) interaction between the 50 states and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** 47 states and 2 districts/territories belong to this organization. DES is the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member.
- **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)** The dues are a standard fee per member with all members being charged the same amount.
- **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** The state receives enormous benefits of membership in a number of ways. First, the state gains access to high ranking Federal administration personnel, which allows for interactions that likely would not otherwise occur. Second, the state's interests are represented on a daily basis in Congress as debate occurs on issues that can impact the environmental and public health of the state. And, third, the state receives up-to-date information on Federal policies and budgets that helps for agency long-term planning and budgeting.
- **Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** Yes, ECOS provides training to its members at meetings, through printed materials and in webinars and other on-line resources. No additional fees for this training are normally charged.
- **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No.
- **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** ECOS typically has 2 meetings per year, one in Washington, DC and the other hosted by a member state. These meetings involve workshops, training sessions and direct conversations with senior EPA officials relative to environmental policy, financing, and program implementation.
- **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.** Only Commissioner Thomas Burack is directly involved with the organization and is a past president of the organization.
- **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** The state would not have up-to-date information on important decisions being made in Washington that will impact the state's ability to fund and implement environmental regulations. Further, it is important for small states to be involved, or only the interests of larger states will be represented. At and through ECOS, New Hampshire is able to have as strong a voice in national policy as other, more populated states. In addition, through the ECOS interactions, especially by serving on the Executive Committee and in officer roles, DES has built relationships with staff at the highest levels of the Federal government both in Congress and the Administration. These relationships are very helpful in working through issues that involve EPA's implementation of programs in New Hampshire.

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Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to learn about new developments and to have a voice in discussion of important issues affecting the State's many environmental roles. Membership in the past has been of great benefit to New Hampshire as we have been able to learn from other states' experiences and to secure enhanced opportunities to participate in federal programs and to obtain funding for important initiatives. These dues are a small investment for the value received from this organization in terms of our ability to both stay abreast of important environmental issues and provide the New Hampshire perspective on national environmental issues.

We respectfully request your approval.


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner



The Environmental Council of the States
 P.O. Box 758616
 Baltimore, MD 21275
 ATTN: Accounts Payable

Invoice

10/1/2016

2280

ECOS

Phone: (202) 266-4927
 Fax: (202) 266-4937

EIN: 36-3962169

Billing Address

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 PO BOX 95
 CONCORD, NH 03302-0095

Description	Amount
FY2017 (10/1/16 - 9/30/17)ECOS DUES	\$13,000.00

Payment Terms: Net 90 Days	Total: \$13,000.00
Customer ID NH	Invoice ID 2280
Customer Name NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Invoice Date 10/1/2016

Method of Payment	
Check _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____	
Card Number _____	
Security Code _____ Expiration _____	
Date _____	For ACH payment, contact Judith Cummins at jcummins@ecos.org or 202-266-4927.
Signature _____	
Name (please print) _____	
Telephone _____	
E-mail _____	
You may fax your credit card payment to (202) 266-4937	

Please return this remittance with your payment