

## Donna Hodges

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**From:** Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:57 PM  
**To:** Gary Rikard  
**Subject:** RE: ECOS Letter to U.S. EPA on State-Federal Cooperation

Thank you

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**From:** Gary Rikard <GRikard@mdeq.ms.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 8:50 PM  
**To:** Donald Welsh <dwelsh@ecos.org>  
**Subject:** Re: ECOS Letter to U.S. EPA on State-Federal Cooperation

Don. Unfortunately, Chris Wells and I were unable to attend the meeting this morning due to travel. As such, I obviously didn't hear the conversation concerning issues with EPA; however, I have serious reservations about the tone of this letter. Moreover, Mississippi's relationship with Region 4 and Regional Administrator Walker is outstanding. The net that ECOS appears to be casting in the letter to the Administrator does not represent the relationship status between Mississippi and Region 4. I realize other states must not have the same relationship that we enjoy and, if so, agree that a dialogue is warranted to attempt to solve those issues, but I think there could have been a better way to go about this than the letter as drafted.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2019, at 3:31 PM, Donald Welsh <[dwelsh@ecos.org](mailto:dwelsh@ecos.org)> wrote:

Dear ECOS Members,

Please see the attached letter sent on behalf of the membership to Administrator Wheeler. We will send out a press release first thing tomorrow morning.

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**Donald S. Welsh**  
Executive Director  
Environmental Council of the States  
**NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:**  
**1250 H Street NW, Suite 850**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
202-266-4929

<ECOS Sept 26 2019 Letter to Adminstrator Wheeler.pdf>