The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

October 6, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to **retroactively** pay the 2027 membership dues to The Environmental Council of the States, (VC # 168853-B001), Washington, DC in the amount of $14,000 for the period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

	FY 2027
03-44-44-440010-7601-026-500251	$14,000
Dept of Environmental Services, PPG Carryover, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

This request for dues is **retroactive** because the invoice 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. NHDES 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 the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner are directly involved with 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, DC 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, NHDES 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.

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.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Environmental Council of States
1250 H Street NW, Ste 850
Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 266-4920
ECOS Tax ID# 36-3962169

INVOICE

NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RECEIVED
OCT 05 2026
DES ACCOUNTING

October 2, 2026
Invoice #27030

Description	Amount
FY 2027 ECOS Membership Dues October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027	$14,000
Current Payment Due	$14,000

Payment Methods

Preferred: ACH/Direct Deposit to ECOS
ABA Routing 051403164
Account Number 1080014119
Please add your state and invoice number to the memo field so we may credit your account.

Check
Make checks payable to *Environmental Council of States,* note your invoice number on the check, and mail to the address above.

Credit Card
Card number_____
Security Code_____Expiration Date_____
Name on card_____
Address associated with card_____
_____
Signature_____

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact Carolyn Hanson at chanson@ecos.org or 202-266-4924.