ECOS

Environmental Council of the States

1250 H Street NW, Suite 850 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 266-4920 | www.ecos.org

Alexandra Dunn
Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Sent via email to dunn.alexandra@epa.gov

RE: Ongoing Need for Safer Choice Program

Dear Administrator Dunn:

I am writing to express ECOS' strong support for the EPA Safer Choice Program as well as concerns about the diversion of resources away from this critical program. During the last three years, some staff have been reassigned to other EPA programs, slowing progress and potentially impacting the long-term viability of the program.

Many states are actively using the data and certification information produced by the Safer Choice Program to inform the public, businesses and institutional purchasing programs about products with chemical ingredients that are safer for people and the environment. The transparency of the data and assessment methodology used by Safer Choice provides states with a reliable resource for their pollution prevention education and technical assistance efforts. The product certification offered by Safer Choice also provides product manufacturing businesses within our states an incentive to achieve high standards of chemical ingredient safety and disclosure.

The global pandemic underscores the need for safer products. With consumers and businesses cleaning and disinfecting more frequently to combat COVID-19, many products can be used that contain chemicals that adversely impact indoor air quality. Safer Choice cleaning products (and Design for the Environment disinfectants) help consumers and businesses avoid asthmagens at a time when protecting lung health is critical. Numerous public health programs encourage consumers and businesses to seek out Safer Choice products for this very reason. We need more Safer Choice products on the market, not fewer.

As EPA's upcoming reorganization unfolds, we urge you to ensure that the Safer Choice Program maintains the staff and resources necessary for long-term programmatic stability and the advancement of safer chemical alternatives.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Whitman
Chair, ECOS Cross-Media Committee
Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Patrick McDonnell
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
ECOS President

Ben Grumbles
Maryland Department of the Environment
ECOS Vice President

Myra Reece
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
ECOS Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Macy
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
ECOS Past President

Donald Welsh
ECOS Executive Director