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Subject: State Parks, EPA Regulations; Public Pensions; Plug-in Vehicles; Corrections Costs; GMO Labeling

Issue: 55

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The State of State Parks: Some States Renew Commitment to Funding Parks

As the weather warms and visitors flock to state parks, they may find fewer amenities, shorter hours and higher fees. After years of budget cuts, many state park directors have had to make tough calls about how to make up for the shortfalls and find creative solutions for raising revenue.

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10 Questions with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell

With a focus on strengthening the economy in his state, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell has led efforts to ensure workers are adequately prepared for the jobs of today. He believes that an effective partnership with the federal government—using a combination of federal resources to complement state innovation—can help achieve just that.

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Twenty States Ask Supreme Court to Revisit EPA Mercury Regulation

On March 18, a group of 20 states asked the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit the handling of implementation for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, regulation on power plants. A 2015 Supreme Court decision, *Michigan v. EPA*, held that EPA interpreted the Clean Air Act unreasonably when it "deemed cost irrelevant to the decision to regulate power plants" for its Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or MATS.

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The Facts on Public Pensions

Public pensions continue to be a topic of great concern to state policymakers across the country. Struggling from years of insufficient contributions, combined with longer-living retiree populations, many states face mounting public pension liabilities. Tune in March 29 at 2 p.m. EDT for a FREE CSG eCademy, presented in partnership with the Center for State and Local Government Excellence, on the state of public pension systems and a free online tool that can be used to inform debates about retirement security issues: Public Plans Data.

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The Cost of Incarceration

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, state prison populations have grown significantly over the last few decades and in 36 states, the prison population has more than tripled as a share of the state population since 1978. Spending on corrections also has increased in states: state corrections spending more than

Plug-In Electric Vehicles

Sales of electric vehicles have risen dramatically in recent years. From advantages such as increased fuel economy and energy security, to tax incentives for consumers and emissions reductions, electric vehicles offer a host of benefits. While the federal government offers incentives and other programs relating to

doubled between 1986 and 2013 after adjusting for inflation, from \$20 billion to over \$47 billion.

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electric vehicles, states, both individually and collaboratively, are developing their own policies in relation to these new vehicle technologies.

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Conflicts Over GMO Labeling Implicate States' Rights

In 2014, Vermont became the first state to pass a law requiring the labeling of genetically modified, or GMO, foods, which is set to take effect on July 1. But until recently it was unknown whether Vermont, or other states considering similar measures, would be able to move forward with implementing such legislation.

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Registration is Now Open for 2016 CSG National Conference

Registration is now open for the 2016 CSG National Conference, Dec. 8-11 in Colonial Williamsburg, Va. Visit

www.csg.org/2016nationalconference

to register and for information on hotel accommodations, transportation, tours and sponsorship opportunities.

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The Facts on Public Pensions

Tuesday, March 29, 2 p.m. EDT

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The Every Student Succeeds Act

Tuesday, April 12, 2 p.m. EDT

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Building Student Capacity through Competency-Based Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2 p.m. EDT/11 a.m. PDT

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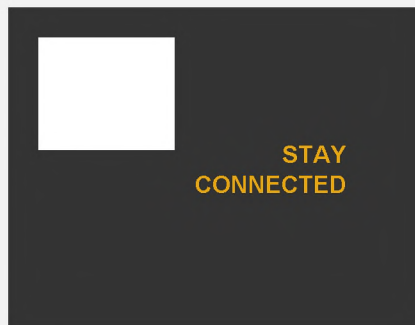
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