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**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Proposed Ozone Regulations; Economic Growth; Congressional Budget Plans

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**Issue: 10**

**March 31, 2015**

### **States Eye Challenges with EPA's Proposed Ozone Regulations**

Hundreds of thousands of comments were submitted from states, nongovernmental organizations, trade groups, companies and citizens before the March 17 comment period deadline for a proposal by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to tighten national standards for ground-level ozone under the Clean Air Act. State governments have a keen interest in the outcome of this regulation, as their environmental agencies will need to develop and implement plans to meet the revised standards or face significant economic consequences.

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### **To Grow a State's Economy, Think Local**

Few at the state or federal level would disagree that cities are the engines of economic growth and innovation in our country, holding the key to our national economic vitality by creating centers for people to live, work, learn and do business. But cities are creatures of state government, subject to state fiscal and regulatory systems that can either support the very economic activity cities facilitate or inhibit it through onerous, unfunded mandates or misaligned priorities.

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### **Congress' Budget Plans Call For Big Changes to Federal-State Programs**

Budget proposals released by both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate earlier this month look to make significant changes to a number of key federal and state programs, including the State Children's Health Insurance Program--or CHIP--Medicaid, the Highway Trust Fund and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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### **Bringing a Collaborative Approach to the Endangered Species Act**

The Endangered Species Act aims to conserve plant and animal species that are endangered or threatened within their habitat. But as the list of species protected under the act grows, the range of habitats in which these species live increasingly overlaps with areas otherwise designated for development. This FREE eCademy webcast Tuesday, April 7 at 2 p.m. EDT will provide a background of endangered species management and explore how the balancing act of species conservation and development is creating unique partnerships in the states.

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### **Jobs in State Government Remain Down in 2014**

According to CSG's analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, state government employment remains below the peak level reached in August 2008, but has seen net

### **Women Outnumber Men in All but Nine States**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 161 million females in the U.S. in 2013 versus 156.1 million males, or about a ratio of 1-to-1. Nationally, females make up 50.8

gains for four consecutive months.

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percent of the population, but that percentage varies across states. Women hold 24.5 percent of statewide elective executive offices, or 78 out of 318 available positions.

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### **Transportation Trust Funds and Lockbox Protections**

Most states have created dedicated trust funds to support transportation, and some have constitutional restrictions on how the revenues in those funds can be spent. Maryland and Wisconsin are the two newest states with constitutional protections for their transportation trust funds. Additional states could follow suit, but despite their real or perceived benefits, such protections are unlikely to have much impact on struggling state transportation budgets.

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### **CSG's Adkins Named Chair of the Big 7**

David Adkins, executive director/CEO of The Council of State Governments, has been named chair of the Big 7, a group of nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations that represent state and local governments. This is the first time a CSG director has led the group.

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### **Bringing a Collaborative Approach to the Endangered Species Act**

Tuesday, April 7, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast

**REGISTER HERE**

### **International State Export and Trade Promotion (STEP) FY15 Awards**

Monday, April 13, 3 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast presented by the State International Development Organizations

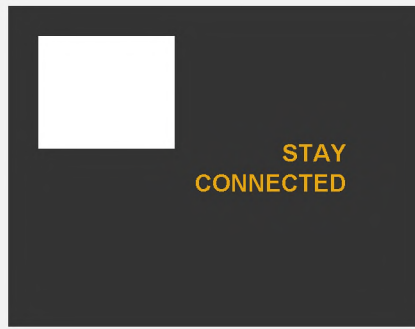
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Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.



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