

## Donna Hodges

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**From:** Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 8:05 PM  
**To:** Gary Rikard  
**Subject:** RE: Statement

Made the change. Thanks Gary

Gary Rikard, Executive Director Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, ECOS member  
Over the past three years the State of Mississippi's relationship with EPA has improved and continues to improve. We have been more engaged with EPA on issues that are important to the people of Mississippi and they have been an important partner in protecting and improving public health and the environment in my State. EPA has treated the State as a partner and we have been pleased with the policy outcomes that have resulted from that collaboration. We look forward to working with EPA in the same manner in the years to come.

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**From:** Gary Rikard <GRikard@mdeq.ms.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 9:03 PM  
**To:** Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Statement

Doug. I'm good with the statement except I'd like to change "significantly improved" to something along the lines of the relationship is "outstanding" or "the best it's ever been" or something similar; or change "significantly improved" to "improved and continues to do so". I'm uncomfortable with the term "significantly"

I'm about to be unavailable for the next 2 hours so provided you make that change then I'm good with it and you can proceed. Just send me the final document, but you don't have to wait on my ok — thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2019, at 7:56 PM, Benevento, Douglas <[benevento.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:benevento.douglas@epa.gov)> wrote:

Statement. Let me know what you think. Thanks

Gary Rikard, Executive Director Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, ECOS member  
Over the past three years the State of Mississippi's relationship with EPA has improved and continues to improve. We have been more engaged with EPA on issues that are important to the people of Mississippi and they have been an important partner in protecting and improving the public health and the environment. EPA has treated the State as a partner and we have been pleased with the policy outcomes that have resulted from that collaboration. We look forward to working with EPA in the same manner in the years to come.