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OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Vision Report: *Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead*

**FROM:** Mathy Stanislaus   
Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response

**TO:** The ECOS Waste Committee

We are delighted to be discussing with you today a report, which is a product of the EPA-State 2020 Vision Workgroup, *Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead*. The Vision Workgroup developed this report in response to a charge from the Directors of the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery and the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. We are pleased to be able to make this report available to you as a final product of the Workgroup and to begin discussions on the important issues it raises.

Before discussing the report, we want to thank those persons from state government who participated directly on the workgroup that produced this report: Mark McDermid of Wisconsin, Peggy Harris of California, Jennifer Kaduck of Georgia and Karen Sismour of Virginia. This report is much stronger than it would otherwise have been because of their contributions. The recommendations apply as much to states as to the federal EPA, due largely to their insights and contributions.

This report explains how our use of materials is challenging the capacity of the Earth to withstand the many resulting environmental problems. It recommends that we shift our focus from waste management to materials management, while being attentive to the principle of sustainability and the perspective of life cycle. The report suggests a roadmap for the future – fulfilling human needs and prospering, while using less materials, reducing toxics and recovering more of the materials used. The report makes sense directionally not only for the environment, but also for natural resource policy, for climate, for the economy and for jobs. It is not a completely new strategy – EPA and the states are already doing important work along the lines recommended in the report – but taken as a whole, this strategy would be an important shift of emphasis.

Today we want to talk with you about the next steps in the partnership that has brought us this report. We would like to begin the conversation about how we respond to the recommendations and how we work together on this task.

The changes in how our society manages materials that the report envisions will take many years to complete, but the result will be a greener, more resilient and more competitive economy. We need to begin now.