Dear Friend,

We're halfway through the state legislative session. While the first weeks were dominated by bills related to Covid-19, we're starting to see movement on legislation that could impact our natural resources and affect your ability to hold elected officials accountable. Right now we're monitoring several pieces of legislation -- including bills concerning public records access, absentee voting, and access to hiking and biking trails. Signup for our weekly Hot List to get the latest news from the State House, and be on the lookout for upcoming Action Alert emails to make your voice heard.

This month marks one year since the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a pandemic. As I consider the last year and the magnitude of what it represents, I am filled with gratitude for you, our members. Thank you for stepping up and taking action, for your generous donations, and for your steadfast commitment to our mission. Because of you, we've been able to keep building our grassroots conservation movement and keep advancing protections for the people and places we love. I look forward to all the exciting work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Tammy Monistere
Executive Director
The League of Conservation Voters recently released its annual environmental scorecard. The scorecard is the primary yardstick for evaluating the environmental records of every member of Congress, and is available online at scorecard.lcv.org, or for download here. LCV scores votes on the most important issues of the year, including energy, public health, public lands and wildlife conservation, and spending for environmental programs. The 2020 Scorecard measures votes cast during the second session of the 116th Congress, which includes 21 House votes and 13 Senate votes. Scores for the Alabama delegation are:

**House:**
- Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL1): 0
- Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL2): 5
- Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL3): 5
- Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL5): 0
- Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL6): 0
- Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL7): 90 (U.S. House Average: 59%)

Once again, Rep. Terri Sewell had the highest score among all members of the Alabama delegation. We are grateful to Congresswoman Sewell for her continued work to protect the people and places of Alabama.

**Senate:**
- Sen. Richard Shelby (R): 0
- Sen. Doug Jones (D): 69
(U.S. Senate Average: 46%)

Special primary elections will take place on Tuesday, March 30 for State Senate District 14 and House District 73.

The seat for Senate District 14 was recently vacated by Sen. Cam Ward, who the Governor appointed to serve as director of the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles. (Senate District 14 represents portions of Bibb, Chilton, Hale, Jefferson, and Shelby Counties.)

The seat for House District 73 was recently vacated by Rep. Matt Fridy, following his election to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. (HouseDistrict 73 includes parts of Shelby County.)

Secretary of State John Merrill has officially extended the opportunity for anyone concerned about Covid-19 to apply for and cast an absentee ballot in these special elections. The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is Thursday, March 25, and absentee ballots must be hand-delivered or postmarked by March 29. The absentee ballot application is available online, or you can contact the Secretary of State’s office at (334) 242-7210.

For a full list of resources on elections, visit our Voting in Alabama webpage.

In other elections news, Kirk Hatcher (D) was successful in his recent bid to serve as the next Senator for District 26. Prior to last month's special election, Hatcher held the seat for House District 78. The special election to fill his vacated House seat will take place on Tuesday, May 25. (House District 78 includes south, west, and north Montgomery.)
AEYC Seeking Applicants

Do you know a high school student who’s passionate about the environment? The Alabama Environmental Youth Council (AEYC) -- a partner of our sister organization Conservation Alabama Foundation -- is currently accepting applications from students who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2021-2022 school year.

AEYC members help promote conservation and sustainability, educate the public about environmental issues, and advocate for environmental policy. To learn more about these young leaders in the statewide environmental movement, visit their website at aeycouncil.org.

Qualifications, responsibilities, and more information about the AEYC application process can be found on the Application Form, due May 7.