Dear Friend,

Before we update you on Alabama’s 2021 legislative session, I feel I must acknowledge the events that took place last week in our nation’s capital. Like you, I watched the attack on the U.S. Capitol in shock and disappointment. The violent rhetoric that has been embraced by some elected officials - including members of Alabama’s congressional delegation - resulted in destruction and loss of life in the very seat of our country’s government.

Part of our job at Conservation Alabama is to hold elected officials accountable for their actions and to stand up for your right to participate in the political process. We rely on the rule of law and a thriving democracy to protect our state’s land, water, and air. When Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL5), Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL2), and Sen Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) called for overturning a free and fair election because they disagreed with the results, they were engaging in voter suppression and becoming complicit in the violence that occurred as a result. Our voices matter. Our votes matter. The safety and security of American democracy depends upon it, as we saw last week.

As the state legislative session begins next month, we will continue our work - with your help - to advocate for sound conservation policy, to build an inclusive and healthy democracy, and to hold elected officials accountable. Keep reading below for how you can stay involved during session and beyond.

Sincerely,

Tammy Monistere
Executive Director
2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 state legislative session will begin on Thursday, February 2, at the State House in Montgomery. Because of the ongoing pandemic, there will be changes to how the legislature operates, and limits to how the public can interact with their elected officials in-person. The Senate has announced plans to livestream committee hearings and Senate proceedings, and will allow visitors in designated areas. In-person meetings can be scheduled with senators in advance.

The legislative session can move quickly, and we want to help you stay engaged and voice your conservation priorities at critical moments in the legislative process. Every year we see the impact you have when you speak up on behalf of Alabama’s natural resources and the people who rely on them. Your voice is the best tool for protecting our state.

Conservation Alabama has several resources to help you keep up with bills that could impact your conservation priorities and engage with your elected officials quickly and effectively:

- Sign up for Action Alerts to be notified via email when your voice can make a difference in the legislative process;
- For even more information, sign up for the weekly Hot List email that tracks the bills we’re following;
- Subscribe to our blog, which is updated weekly during the legislative session with an overview of the week in Montgomery and a preview of what’s to come;
- Find your federal and state representatives and their contact information by entering your address here;
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for real-time updates;

MLK Day of Service

Every year, on the third Monday in January, communities across the U.S. honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by performing acts of service. The 2021 MLK Day of Service is happening this Monday, January 18, and we invite you to join us by getting out (or staying in!) to serve our neighbors and communities.

Whether you spend the day volunteering with a local charity or performing a few random acts of kindness, know that what you do makes a world of difference.

Looking for ways to participate? We’ve put together a list of ideas below:

- Clean up trash around your neighborhood, community park, trail, or beach
- Post a positive online review for a small business
- Donate canned goods or volunteer to sort items at your local food pantry
- Write a thank you note to a frontline worker
- Donate blood or sign up for the bone marrow registry
- Offer to return someone’s shopping cart at the grocery store
- Put together toiletry kits or donate needed items to your local homeless shelter
- Check in on an elderly or sick neighbor -- ask if they need help picking up groceries or prescriptions
- Gather up newspapers, old towels, or blankets and give them to a local animal rescue
- Pay it backward: buy coffee for the person behind you in line.

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