Dear Friend,

After more than seven years in the executive director role, I will be leaving Conservation Alabama next month. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the conservation community in our state. Our donors, volunteers, and members are some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever known, and working alongside you to protect the people and places of Alabama has been life changing and enriching.

From our statewide advocacy efforts to safeguard public lands and advance protections for our natural resources, to our work holding elected officials accountable and electing conservation champions to public office, we have accomplished so much together. Thank you for your friendship and steadfast commitment to our mission.

In the coming months and years, Conservation Alabama will be working hard to broaden and expand Alabama's conservation voter movement, protect our land, water, and air, and make progress towards a clean energy economy. I remain deeply committed to the success of this organization, and look forward to staying involved as your fellow member and donor. After all, our movement is people-powered, and our progress is only possible because of the hundreds and thousands of Alabamians like you who raise their voices in support of conservation values and give generously to support our programs.

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2021 Legislative Session Wrap Up

Lawmakers returned to Montgomery yesterday for the final day of the 2021 session.

While priority bills related to the Covid-19 pandemic dominated the early session, the remaining weeks featured a flurry of bills on voting, passage of historic Education and General Fund Budgets, as well as heated debate on a statewide lottery and medical marijuana.

Our big win this session was the successful passage of HB 565, an $85 million bond issue to improve state parks. Conservation Alabama was a strong supporter of this bill, which will allow state parks to renovate campgrounds and provide Alabamians increased access to public lands throughout the state. This measure is a constitutional amendment, and will go before voters in the November 2022 general election.

We were also excited at the successful passage of HB 281 by Rep Victor Gaston (R-Mobile), which extended state tax credits for restoration of qualified historic structures through 2029. Conservation Alabama supported this bill because investment in historic renovation reduces the waste that ends up in landfills. Not only that, but it encourages economic investments in older neighborhoods and small towns, where communities are more walkable.

While this year’s session has ended, that doesn’t mean your work is done! We’re already busy preparing for the 2022 legislative session, working with partners on our strategy to advance key conservation policy issues in the coming year.

For a full week-to-week account of the 2021 session, visit our blog.

AL Gulf Coast Receiving $81M in Restoration Funding

Last month, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) approved $302 million in new funding for coastal restoration projects related to the devastating effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Over $81 million has been set aside for projects in Alabama.

Many of these projects focus on conserving vital habitats and improving water quality, with the aim of restoring these areas and increasing their resilience to future environmental impacts. Projects include:

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From eliminating all lead drinking water pipes to expanding clean energy tax credits, a majority of Alabama voters support federal investments to create clean energy sector jobs, tackle the climate climate crisis, and address environmental injustices.

These results are taken from a recent country-wide poll by the League of Conservation Voters and Data for Progress. The groups conducted a joint survey to assess the attitudes of likely voters towards the American Jobs Plan -- specifically the key provisions that address climate change, advance clean energy and domestic manufacturing, support clean water, and advance equity by focusing 40% of the benefits of climate and clean energy infrastructure investments into low-income communities, communities of color, and other disadvantaged communities.

Click here to see the level of support for these issues in your congressional district and around the country.

AEYC Applications Extended to May 28

Alabama Environmental Youth Council (AEYC) is seeking applicants for its 2021-2022 term!

Council membership is open to current or rising high school students who are passionate about the environment. This is an exciting opportunity for young leaders to work together and engage fellow youth in projects that will preserve, protect, and promote a healthy environment for a sustainable Alabama.

AEYC is one of the few completely youth-led environmental organizations in Alabama, and the council currently consists of twenty-two
members from across the state. In past terms, AEYC members have organized recycling initiatives, a series of educational webinars, and a school cleanup program. In the coming year, the council hopes to work with new members to explore new projects and advocacy initiatives that will directly connect Alabama youth with their local communities and empower them to drive environmental change.

Interested individuals can visit www.aeycouncil.org to complete an application and review member requirements. The deadline for applications is 5:00 PM on Friday, May 28.

We're Hiring!

The Board of Directors of Conservation Alabama and Conservation Alabama Foundation are seeking a dynamic, results-driven Executive Director to lead our family of organizations into a new era of growth and success.

Know someone who’s the perfect fit, or interested in applying yourself? Click here to view the full position description and submit your application.