Dear Friend,

While the summer season is often thought of as a time for relaxation, it's still a busy time of year for Conservation Alabama! We're hard at work monitoring federal legislation, planning strategies for the upcoming election year, and developing key programs to protect clean water, increase fair access to clean energy, and preserve public lands.

Summer is also a great time to stay engaged as a conservation voter! Make sure you're keeping up with upcoming statewide and municipal elections, and don't forget to join your fellow voters in states across the country and send a message to Congress asking them to support investments in climate, energy, and justice.

Sincerely,

Tammy Monistere
Executive Director
**Forever Wild Land Trust Nominations**

Know a piece of Alabama land that needs to be preserved for public use? You can nominate it to be acquired by the Forever Wild Land Trust (FWLT) program.

Forever Wild is among Alabama's greatest conservation achievements. Created by constitutional amendment in 1992 with 84 percent of the vote, FWLT has secured over 270,000 acres of land for public use -- including new recreation areas, nature preserves, and additions to Alabama's state parks. In 2012, Conservation Alabama and our statewide network of public lands supporters helps renew Forever Wild for another 20 years, and have repeatedly defended Alabama's public lands from budget cuts and other attacks.

In spite of the program's overwhelming success, Alabama still has a smaller percentage of public conservation land (3.66 percent) than nearly any other Southeastern state. That's why nominating new tracts of land for the program is so important.

If you'd like to nominate a piece of land for inclusion in Forever Wild, you can submit it for consideration online, by email, or by letter (send to: State Lands Division, Room 464, 64 N Union St, Montgomery, Alabama 36130).

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**Court Challenge to Solar Fees**

Earlier this month, the Southern Environmental Law Center and law firm Ragsdale, LLC filed suit in federal court on behalf of four Alabama Power customers and GASP. The suit aims to challenge the state Public Service Commission’s approval of an extra monthly fee for Alabama Power customers who use on-site solar panels, arguing it violates federal law by discouraging solar growth in our state. (Customers with an average-sized rooftop solar system pay between $20-$32 in extra fees per month.)

**Alabama currently ranks 49th among all states and Washington, D.C. in terms of residential solar, and 49th in solar jobs per capita.**

Conservation Alabama supports the efforts of our partners at GASP and the Southern Environmental Law Center to expand fair access to clean energy in our state. To help us realize an environmentally and economically sound future for Alabama, be sure to educate your family and friends on the benefits of solar and vote for candidates who support the expansion of renewable energy.

We'll be following this lawsuit closely -- follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for the latest conservation updates.
Are You a Citizen Advocate?

At Conservation Alabama, we work to make sound environmental policies a political reality. But we can accomplish these goals without the help of informed and dedicated citizens like you! Whether you are a hunter, fisher, outdoor enthusiast, or concerned parent, you have a stake in a clean, safe, and healthy environment.

Need a refresher on citizen advocacy? Here are some general guidelines for building effective communication with your representative:

- **Be aware of who represents you at both the state and local levels.** (Click here to find your elected leaders.)
- **Stay in regular, respectful contact with your representative.** (Click here to tell your elected leaders you’re a conservation voter.)
- **If a candidate’s platform includes support of your conservation values, find ways to volunteer or get involved with their campaign.** (Remember, every seat in Alabama’s state legislature is on the ballot in 2022.
- **Finally, don’t forget that our sister organization, Conservation Alabama Foundation, conducts advocacy trainings for groups of any size.** (Click here for more information or to request a training.)

Save the Date: Love Alabama 2021

We are thrilled to announce our 3rd annual Love Alabama event will once again be taking place from the comfort of your home, office, or anywhere you can join us virtually. **Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 21st!**

Event attendees will gather together with other conservation supporters from across the state (and the U.S.!) to celebrate the impact of Alabama’s Conservation Voter movement. You’ll have the opportunity to hear from our new executive director and learn about our exciting plans to advance sound environmental policy and elect conservation champions to office in 2022 and beyond.

We hope you’ll consider joining us online and encourage friends, family and colleagues to get involved in our grassroots movement. Proceeds from this event will go straight to work powering our nonpartisan efforts to protect Alabama’s most cherished natural resources and the people who rely on them.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are interested in supporting this event through a sponsorship, contact Brittany Stuber at bstuber@conservationalabama.org.

DONATE