

1 HJR196  
2 211835-2  
3 By Representative Faust  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 13-APR-21

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATER ACCESS IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND ENDORSING THE MISSION OF CLEAN WATER ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, as residents of Alabama rely on water access to support their economies, the state is committed to ensuring that access to water is available for all; and

WHEREAS, within Alabama are more than 132,000 miles of river and stream channels, and the state is thus entrusted with stewardship over 14 percent of all freshwater in the continental United States; the Mobile-Tensaw Delta at the head of Mobile Bay is one of the most biodiverse areas in the North American continent, and its watershed covers 65 percent of the state; as such, the preservation of this area is a responsibility held by the entire state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is also home to the 9th largest deep-water port by total tonnage, located in Mobile; this economic driver spreads wealth through the entire state and attracts industry and jobs to the state; across the bay in Baldwin County, Alabama's fastest-growing county, access to

1 beautiful white sand beaches has helped drive Alabama's  
2 tourism economy for decades and has made Alabama a national,  
3 and international, destination; and

4 WHEREAS, since the days of the original Alabama  
5 settlers, access to rivers and streams - America's original  
6 "highways of commerce" - was of the utmost importance; the  
7 current sites of many of our cities and towns are due to their  
8 access to these waterways, and continued access to clean water  
9 remains critical to the health and vibrancy of Alabama's  
10 communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the article, "Water Access Issues in  
12 Alabama", published on the Alabama Cooperative Extension  
13 System website, summarizes the importance of water access to  
14 all Alabamians: "Transportation, sport fishing, seafood  
15 processing, and canoeing are among the many uses of Alabama's  
16 waterways. In the cities and towns along Alabama's many miles  
17 of waterfront, the way of life depends on waterfront access,  
18 and the economic web spun here stretches wide across the  
19 state. Entire economies of some small towns depend on access  
20 to waterways for traditional business uses, and water-related  
21 activities make a large impact on the state's economy"; and

22 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the people of Alabama  
23 to continue to work together to make sure that there is  
24 sufficient access to clean water in the state; this is the  
25 mission of Clean Water Alabama, and we recognize the vital  
26 importance of that mission to all Alabamians; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2           HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body recognizes the  
3           importance of water access in Alabama and declares that it is  
4           imperative that all Alabamians continue to work together to  
5           ensure that access to clean water remains available, and  
6           therefore endorses Clean Water Alabama and its paramount  
7           mission.