

SJR9 INTRODUCED



1 CPSDWJ-1
2 By Senator Albritton
3 RFD: RULES
4 First Read: 21-Mar-23
5



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SJR___ RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA RIVER AS AN ALABAMA STATE
LANDMARK ON RIVERS OF ALABAMA DAY ON APRIL 11, 2023.

WHEREAS, Alabama is blessed with more than 132,000 miles of rivers and streams and is well-known for its high-quality waters, which are the most biologically diverse freshwaters in the entire United States, with 20 fish species found nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama River, flowing through Elmore, Autauga, Montgomery, Lowndes, Dallas, Wilcox, Monroe, Baldwin and Clarke Counties, contributes to over 300 miles in Alabama's river system; the Alabama River flows exclusively in the East Gulf Coastal Plain Section and touches six districts including the Fall Line Hills, Black Belt, Chunnenugee Hills, Southern Red Hills, Lime Hills, and the Southern Pine Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama River is an iconic cornerstone of Alabama's natural heritage; the system hosts more species of fish, mussels, turtles, and birds than most states and countries; historically, striped bass migrations on the Alabama River indicated the beginning of the yearly fishing season; large numbers of Alabama shad spawned in the river



SJR9 INTRODUCED

26 and were a host for freshwater mussel reproduction which in
27 turn cleaned the waters of the state; mullet used the river
28 as a place to feed and grow and communities held
29 celebrations during their migrations; the Alabama River was
30 prime spawning habitat for Gulf and Alabama sturgeon while
31 American eels migrated up the river from their spawning
32 grounds in the Sargasso Sea to mature in the river through
33 their life stages and were also consumed by other important
34 coastal and marine species; and

35 WHEREAS, the Alabama River has played an important role
36 in the cultural history of the United States; ancestors from
37 the Creek Nation, including the Poarch Creek Indians and the
38 Alabama-Coushattas, lived along the banks of the Alabama
39 River, using them for trade routes and for sources of food
40 and water; it was one of the key rivers in the American
41 Civil War, as Union Forces used it to transport troops and
42 supplies, and Confederate Forces fought to deny access from
43 Mobile Bay; in the 20th Century, the river was a major
44 transportation route for the industrialization of the
45 southern United States; and

46 WHEREAS, the Alabama River offers vast opportunities
47 for water-related recreation; the Mobile Delta formed by the
48 Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers is universally known for its
49 hunting, fishing, canoeing, and birdwatching opportunities;
50 Claiborne Lake encompasses over 60 miles of the Alabama



SJR9 INTRODUCED

51 River and offers excellent fishing for largemouth bass,
52 crappie, bluegill, and catfish; the William "Bill" Dannelly
53 Reservoir, located in Alabama's Blackbelt, hosts nearly
54 three million visitors per year with its offerings of
55 fishing, skiing, boating, and hunting, and Woodruff Lake
56 offers such activities as fishing, boating, water-skiing,
57 picnicking, camping, swimming, and hiking, and has an annual
58 attendance of over two million visitors each year; now
59 therefore,

60 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
61 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That on April 11, 2023, Rivers of
62 Alabama Day, the Alabama River is herein recognized as an
63 Alabama State Landmark for its natural and cultural
64 significance to the people of Alabama, the nation, and the
65 world, and it is directed that a copy of this resolution be
66 provided for appropriate display during this celebrated
67 event.