

1 HR241
2 219585-1
3 By Representative Clouse
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 30-MAR-22

OPPOSING CHANGES IN ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL OR WATER LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES THAT ARE NOT BASED ON SCIENTIFIC NEED.

WHEREAS, the Great State of Alabama has been entrusted with stewardship over a wealth of natural resources, including over 14 percent of the nation's freshwater rivers and streams, as well as a plethora of unique species of flora and fauna; we are proud to call this resource-rich and biodiverse area "home"; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Cahaba River, famed for its beautiful Cahaba lilies and bountiful ecology, is among the most scenic and biologically diverse rivers in the United States; the Mobile River Basin, Mobile Bay, and Mobile-Tensaw Delta area possesses such biodiversity that it has been dubbed "America's Amazon"; and

WHEREAS, the splendor of this state is also shown through the majesty of the North Alabama mountains and its rivers; the Appalachian foothills in Northeastern Alabama tie the state into the oldest mountain range in North America; the

1 mighty Tennessee River flows through the counties of northern
2 Alabama, bringing with it both beauty and prosperity; the Elk
3 River, a tributary of the Tennessee River, and the Elk River
4 Watershed are some of Alabama's treasures, wondrous places for
5 outdoor recreation for humans, and a nurturing biome for
6 nature; and

7 WHEREAS, regardless of intent, the enactment of
8 environmental or water laws, regulations, and policies that
9 are not based on clearly-demonstrated scientific need carries
10 with it the risk of negatively affecting that which we seek to
11 protect and preserve; and

12 WHEREAS, although the preservation and maintenance
13 of our surrounding environment is a principle that most
14 Alabamians can agree on, we should accept the aid of, and rely
15 on, modern science in crafting environmental laws,
16 regulations, and policies, so that we may better serve as
17 stewards of that which has been entrusted to us during our
18 time here on this Earth; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
20 this body hereby opposes changes in Alabama environmental or
21 water laws, regulations, and policies that are not based on
22 scientific need; this body also urges all authorities of the
23 State of Alabama to do likewise, so that future Alabamians may
24 fully benefit from the immense natural wealth offered by this
25 great state.