

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALABAMA

June 11, 2012

AGCY CODE: AGR 001/HANDMAIL 0004
John McMillan, Commissioner
Agriculture & Industries
Beard Building
Montgomery, AL 36109

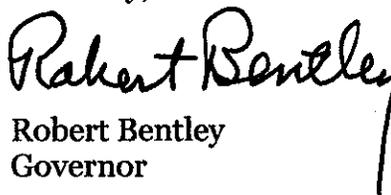
Re: Alabama Water Agency's Working Group

Dear John:

I believe that your agency could provide some beneficial contributions to the Alabama Water Agency's Working Group. Attached is my latest correspondence dated April 18, 2012 to the Group for your review and information. Please allow this letter serve as my invitation to you to designate someone from your agency to participate in this Group. Please let Bennett Bearden, who serves as Chair, know who your designated representative will be.

I look forward to seeing the product of this Group's work.

Sincerely,


Robert Bentley
Governor

✓ RB/vm
cc: Bennett Bearden
Cooper Shattuck

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April 18, 2012

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Tom Littlepage
Craig Kneisel
Office of Water Resources
Alabama Department of Economic
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Montgomery, AL 36104

Lance R. LeFleur
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Bennett Bearden
Marlon Cook
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Geological Survey of Alabama
P. O. Box 86999
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Gunter Guy, Jr.
Stan Cook
Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
64 N. Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the information you have provided regarding the water resources of our State. As you have noted, and as a number of commissions,

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study groups, committees, and knowledgeable individuals—both within and outside of state government—have noted, water is one of the State's vital resources, and it must be managed and protected for all who have an interest in it. To further our State's water management efforts, I am requesting that you do the following:

1) Continue the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group. Reconvene the working group, and undertake the actions provided further herein. Bennett Bearden shall serve as chairman of this group and shall report its progress and developments to me or my office in writing on a monthly basis. Thank you in advance for providing Bennett with your cooperation and support.

2) Create a comprehensive database of Alabama's water resources. Gather all existing data and let me know about any additional data that needs to be collected to provide a full understanding of the State's water resources, the current uses of these resources, and the need for these resources (including, but not limited to, industrial, economic, public health and safety, and environmental needs.)

3) Meet with stakeholders. Organize and conduct meetings with my staff, key legislators, and outside stakeholders from groups that represent—at a minimum—economic, industrial, utility, public drinking water supply, public safety, recreational, environmental, ecological, and agricultural interests.

4) Recommend a statewide water management plan by December 1, 2013. Recommend a statewide water management action plan and timeline that takes into account and equitably manages the various demands on the State's water. Create a plan that is science-based, data-driven, and that is in the best interest of the State of Alabama, but that also takes into account and protects proper existing uses of water. Include in your recommendation any proposed legislation necessary to implement such a plan.

Thank you for the work you have already done on this significant state resource, and thank you in advance for the work that you will do in carrying out the goals and objectives set forth herein. Please keep me posted on your progress and do not hesitate to call upon my office and my staff for support and assistance. I believe that this work will benefit all Alabamians now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Robert Bentley
Governor

RB/RCS/vm