



**Environmental Education
Association of Alabama**

P.O. BOX 2152, Huntsville, AL 35804

September 2, 2013

Dr Bennett Bearden
AWAWG Chairman
Alabama Water Agencies Working Group
Geological Survey of Alabama
PO Box 869999
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-6999

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) which represents educators from across the state in public schools, private schools, nature centers and environmental centers. We currently have about 300 members. Our mission is to enhance formal and informal educators' abilities to connect people to the natural world in order to foster responsible stewardship. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group's historic efforts to draft the first-ever comprehensive water management policy for this state.

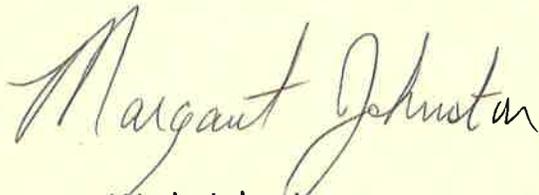
EEAA strongly supports the development and implementation of a statewide comprehensive water management plan that provides the citizens of Alabama with safe and abundant potable water. It also needs to accommodate economic development, while preserving and protecting our streams, lakes, rivers, estuaries and bays through the promotion of environmental stewardship. We would like to see the plan maintain natural flows in our rivers and streams in order to protect the amazing diversity of aquatic flora and fauna that we are blessed with in our state. Alabama is first in the nation for aquatic biodiversity! We hope the plan will help us to keep it that way.

EEAA strongly endorses the *Water Conservation and Reuse* aspect of the plan which includes 'develop a public education program concerning the need for and

benefits of water conservation and reuse,' and well as the education of stakeholders mentioned in #11-12 of the plan. EEAA would be happy to help in any way we could as educators to provide input and ideas about how this could be accomplished. One of our current projects is working with the Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) to write an Environmental Literacy Plan for the state. It is called *Alabama Alive!* and has been submitted to the SDE for review. One of its components is to educate the public about environmental concerns such as water conservation and reuse.

We fill that AWAAG is on the right track and greatly appreciate this historic opportunity to provide input into the formation of a comprehensive water management plan for the state of Alabama. Feel free to contact me if you would like to further discuss our comments or if we can assist in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Johnston".

Margaret Wade Johnston
President, Environmental Education Association of Alabama
Director, McDowell Environmental Center
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