

ASSAULT ON CLEAN WATER THREATENS ALABAMA

DESPITE THE FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY OF CLEAN WATER, politicians in Washington are trying to dismantle the Clean Water Act, which has kept our nation's waters clean for nearly 50 years. This bedrock environmental safeguard is a central tool used by state and local governments to shield and protect clean water needed for healthy communities and families. Without it, polluted waters would threaten Alabama's local economies, communities, and way of life.

Allowing open dumping into upstream waters spells trouble for everyone downstream. Pollution dumped by industry flows from smaller streams into our rivers and lakes, across state lines and downriver, contaminating waters used by families and communities for drinking and recreation. The best way to protect clean water is to stop harmful pollution at its source, before it reaches our waterways.

The drinking water for nearly 20 million people in the South and 2 million miles of streams across the United States will be at risk if the administration's proposal becomes law.¹ The proposed rule would allow unlimited pollution dumping in a host of upstream waters, such as smaller streams, tributaries and millions of acres of wetlands. Estimates show this would eliminate safeguards for up to 60 percent of stream miles and end protections for most of the 110 million acres of wetlands in the contiguous United States.²

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN ALABAMA?

This plan would remove protections from drinking water sources for 117 million Americans. This includes the drinking water for at least half of Alabamians.³

CLEAN WATER IS BIG BUSINESS IN ALABAMA

 **\$456 MILLION**
SPENT ON FISHING

 **\$615 MILLION**
FROM LOCAL BREWERIES

 **\$251 MILLION**
FROM SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

 **\$2.7 BILLION**
SPENT ON WILDLIFE RECREATION

million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to Americans, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, and supporting hunting and fishing.⁷

Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife, and Alabama's vibrant recreational industry. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011 \$2.7 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Alabama, including \$456 million on fishing, and more than 1.7 million people participated in wildlife related recreational activities in Alabama.⁸ These small streams and wetlands also filter the water that flows into our largest rivers and lakes.

Alabamians are more likely to participate in fishing than the average American with over 831,000 anglers taking over 2,324,000 recreational fishing trips in 2015.^{9,10}

Alabama's seafood industry adds \$251 million annually to the state's economy and supports 9,956 jobs.¹¹



Under the proposal by the administration and supported by industrial polluters, more than 50 percent of Alabama's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction.⁴

At least fifty-six percent of Alabamians get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that may lose critical Clean Water Act protections under the administration's proposal.⁵

More than 5,500 miles of streams that feed into Alabama's drinking water sources would be at risk for pollution if the Clean Water Act is rolled back as the administration plans.⁶

Thousands of acres of wetlands that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk if the federal government moves forward with its plan.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR ALABAMA

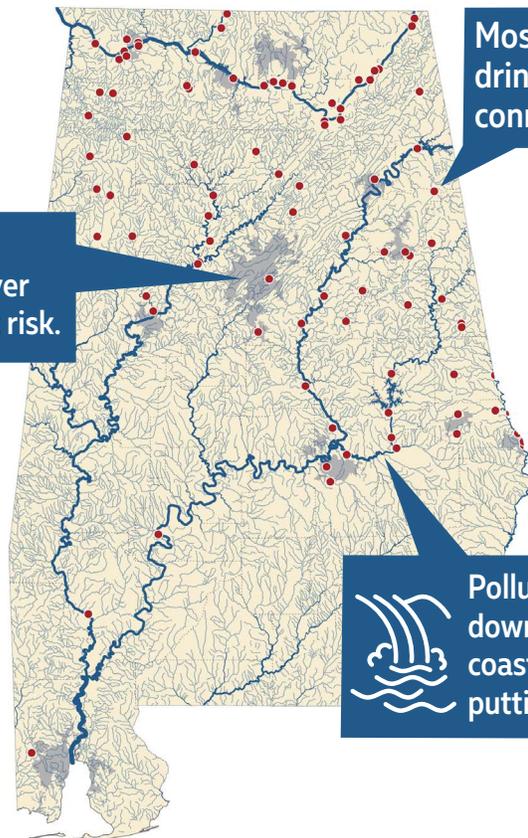
By EPA's own estimates, their proposed rule will put at risk at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to Americans, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, and supporting hunting and fishing.⁷



Teeming with plants and wildlife, Alabama's waterways are among the most diverse in the country. The number of aquatic species in Alabama is unrivaled, ranking 1st in the nation for the number of freshwater fish and freshwater turtles, with 332 species of fish and 27 species of turtles.¹²

Alabama's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water. Small Alabama breweries contribute more than \$615 million to our economy every year and support 3,386 jobs.¹³

ALABAMA'S COMMUNITIES ARE INTERCONNECTED WITH WATERWAYS



Most people in Alabama get their drinking water from surface water intakes connected to rivers and streams.

● Public drinking water intakes



In Birmingham, the drinking water for over 750,000 people is at risk.



Pollution dumped upstream travels downstream and eventually flows into our coastal waterways, estuaries, and the ocean, putting billions of dollars of revenue at risk.

For more information please visit ProtectSouthernWater.org

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2009. Analysis of the Surface Drinking Water Provided By Intermittent, Ephemeral, and Headwater Streams in the U.S. Accessed at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009_12_28_wetlands_science_surface_drinking_water_surface_drinking_water_results_state.pdf. Stream miles calculated using EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html#index-17.html>. AND EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams - Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html>.

² EPA, Water: Rivers and Streams – Streams. AND U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 – 2009. Page 37. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-2004-to-2009.pdf>.

^{3,4} EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

⁵ Calculated using EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water. AND U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. Interactive Population Map. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>.

⁶ EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army. 2015. Economic Analysis of the EPA-Army Clean Water Rule. Page 53-54. Accessed at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final_clean_water_rule_economic_analysis_5-20-15.pdf.

⁸ U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation - Alabama. Pages 5-8. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw1-al.pdf>.

⁹ The Outdoor Industry Association. 2017. The Outdoor Recreational Economy – Alabama. Accessed at https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OIA_RecEcoState_AL.pdf.

¹⁰ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2015. Fisheries Economics of the United States. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA. Page 13. Accessed at <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/16121>.

¹¹ NMFS, Fisheries Economics, 170.

¹² Byington, Pat. 2017. Who Knew? Alabama ranks first in biodiversity. How did that Happen?. BHAM NOW. Accessed at <https://bhamnow.com/2017/10/30/knew-alabama-ranks-first-biodiversity/>

¹³ Brewers Association. 2016. Economic Impact by State. Accessed at <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.