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The assault on clean water threatens Alabama.

DESPITE THE FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY OF CLEAN WATER, the previous administration dismantled the longstanding safeguards of the Clean Water Act, which has kept our nation's waters clean for nearly 50 years. This bedrock environmental law is a central tool used by state and local governments to shield and protect clean water needed for healthy communities, businesses, and families. Without its protections, polluted waters threaten Alabama's local economies, communities, and way of life. **It is urgent that EPA restore strong clean water protections.**

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.

Clean water is big business in Alabama.

 **\$2.7 billion spent on wildlife recreation**

 **\$456 million spent on fishing**

 **\$600 million from local breweries**

 **\$251 million from the seafood industry**

The Trump administration's removal of federal clean water protections in 2020* left up to half of the nation's stream miles,¹ over 45 million wetland acres,² and many important public recreational lakes and drinking water reservoirs³ vulnerable to pollution and destruction by industry. In the South, the removal risks the drinking water sources for over 35 million people, or three out of four Southerners.⁴



WHAT'S AT STAKE IN ALABAMA?

The prior administration's removal of federal protections threatens drinking water sources for 217 million Americans,⁵ including the drinking water for more than eight of every ten Alabamians.⁶ Under the rule, supported by industrial polluters who continue to litigate to uphold it, more than 69,000 miles of streams that flow into Alabama's rivers, lakes, and bays are at risk.⁷

Millions of acres of wetlands in Alabama that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are put at risk under the 2020 rule.⁸ In the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and Mobile Bay watersheds alone, over 29,000 acres of wetlands are vulnerable because of the rule; in the Black Warrior River basin over 121,000 acres are at risk, and nearly 54,000 acres are at risk in the Cahaba River watershed.⁹

ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR ALABAMA

By EPA's own estimates, the rule put at risk at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to Americans, including the value of streams' and wetlands' capacity to reduce flooding, filter pollution, provide wildlife habitat, and support hunting and fishing.¹⁰ Protecting small streams and wetlands sustains fish and wildlife and Alabama's vibrant recreational and hunting and fishing industries. 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.¹¹

Alabamians are more likely to participate in fishing than the average American.¹² In 2015, over 831,000 anglers took 2,324,000 recreational fishing trips in Alabama waters.¹³ Alabama's seafood industry adds \$251 million annually to the state's economy and supports 9,956 jobs.¹⁴

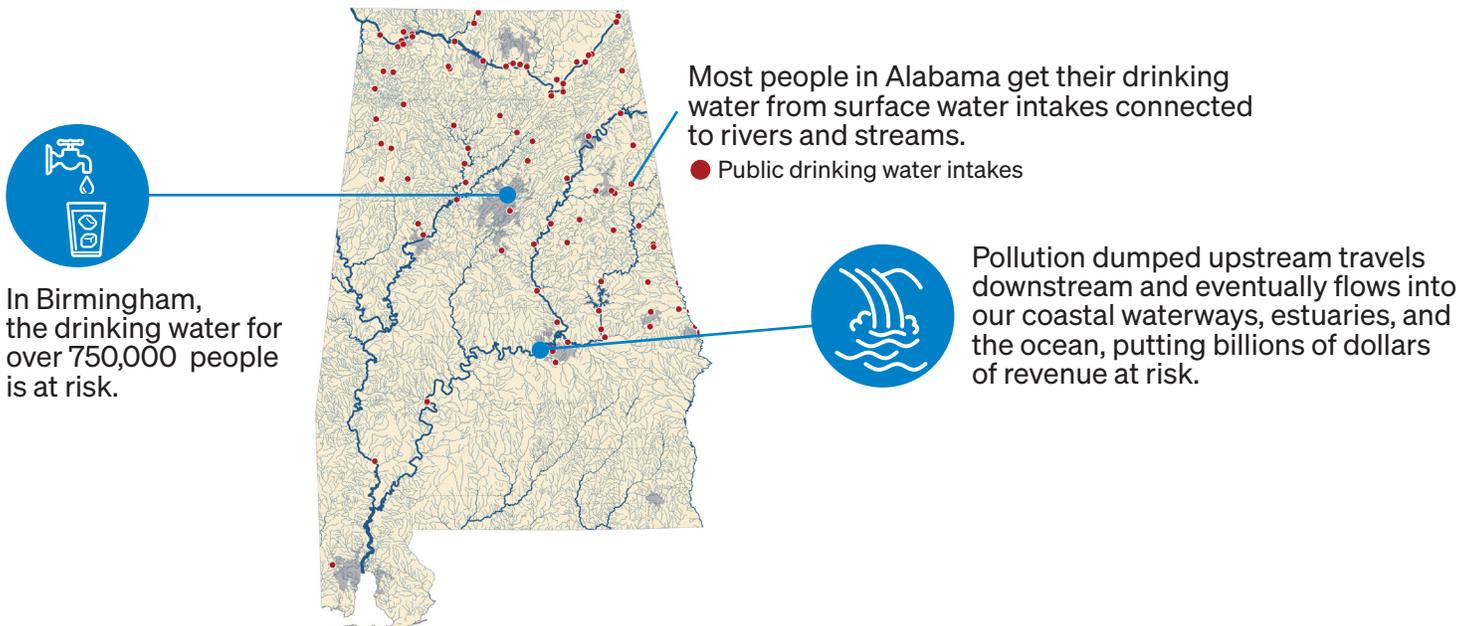
Teeming with plants and wildlife, Alabama's waterways are among the most diverse in the country. The number of aquatic species in Alabama is unrivaled, ranking 1st

in the nation for the number of freshwater fish and turtles, with 332 species of fish and 27 species of turtles.¹⁵

Alabama's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water. Small Alabama breweries contribute more than \$600 million to our economy every year and support 3,749 jobs.¹⁶



Alabama's communities are interconnected with waterways.



For more information, please visit ProtectSouthernWater.org.

* Two federal courts vacated the Trump administration's unlawful rule as of October 15, 2021. Until litigation is final, there is a risk that the 2020 rule could be reinstated. At the time of this writing, protections for streams and wetlands remain in jeopardy.