



July 30, 2008

Senator Kim Benefield
P.O. Box 123
Woodland, Alabama 36280

Dear Senator Benefield:

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association, Inc., would like to express our gratitude for your leadership on the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Water Policy and Management. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to and support the efforts of you and your committee in this work in any way possible.

The Lake Martin HOBOS was founded just over a year ago, during a time our lake was experiencing a drought and historically low water levels. In this short time, the HOBOS have grown to over 2,000 homeowner and business members who expect us to positively influence both governmental decision makers and Alabama Power Company to better manage our lake levels and to maintain water quality second to none. Through unprecedented approvals Alabama Power was able to reduce downstream flows, begin filling the Lake earlier, and reach full pool sooner. Even though the drought continues, Lake Martin today contains about seven feet more water than last year at this time.

We look forward to not only participating in sub-committee activities, but the Lake Martin HOBOS would like to be included in the committee proceedings on September, 23, 2008, at Guntersville State Park. As representatives of the largest impoundment in the state, with over 7,600 homes, and many affected businesses, the Lake Martin HOBOS are uniquely qualified to share the economic impact of the lack of water. We would like to explain the true cost of low water levels on our economy; it is not only about recreation, it is about lives and livelihoods.

Please visit our website at www.lakemartin.org for additional information regarding our organization and its mission. Feel free to contact me at 256-825-0919.

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham
President
Lake Martin HOBOS

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