



September 19, 2007

Governor Bob Riley
Alabama State Capital
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Riley:

Please find attached our letter written to Colonel Byron G. Jorns, Commander, Mobile District, Corps of Engineers concerning the requests of special interest groups to continue drawing down the Tallapoosa and Coosa River basin to allow dredging on the lower Alabama River. The Lake Martin area has suffered economically since April of this year, and any further draw down of the lake will create a potentially disastrous situation for businesses this fall, winter, and especially next year. As you know, the current drought has been forecasted to continue through May of 2008. If such were to occur it could mean Alabama lakes might not have an opportunity to even recover to winter pool level much less summer pool levels.

Governor, we have requested that the Corps of Engineers reduce the flow rates by the amount (over 20%) their study indicated would permit the Alabama River to sustain itself without damage to the economy or the environment. Our area has suffered through the drought while areas down river continue their normal lives. It is time for all to share this burden.

We contacted you in July and asked for your help in our effort to raise the winter lake level. We have learned through discussions with Alabama Power that this is feasible, and we ask for your support in this matter. If we can raise the lake levels in the winter, the lake will be better prepared for any future droughts.

Your continued interest and action to help those dependent upon the rivers and lakes of Alabama is greatly appreciated by the Lake Martin HOBOS.

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham
President
Lake Martin HOBOS

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