



# CONSERVATION ALABAMA

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## CONSERVATION HOT LIST

Legislation Conservation Alabama is following the 2009 Regular Session  
*For the week of March 9, 2009*

### CONSERVATION ALABAMA PRIORITY LEGISLATION

#### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #1

HB193/SB388 – Provides for a sales tax holiday for energy star products. This bill was drafted and introduced originally in 2007 by Conservation Alabama.

STATUS: HB193 first read on 2/3/09 and assigned to House Education Appropriations Committee; SB388 first read 2/17/09 assigned to Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee, public hearing held 3/4/09, no vote yet taken.

POSITION: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

#### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #2

HJR37 (Rep. Cam Ward) – Establishes waterways designated outstanding by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management as Alabama Scenic River through the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

STATUS: Adopted by House voice vote on 2/5/09 and yet to be assigned to Senate committee.

POSITION: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

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### Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy

HB185/SB65 – Provides for Green Fleet legislation and to create a committee to oversee a program of procuring state motor vehicles that are energy efficient and reduce emissions into the environment.

STATUS: HB185, with minor revisions, passed full House 99-0 on 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on 2/12/09; SB65 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB186/SB66 – Eliminates certain regulations on the manufacture, sale, and transportation of ethyl alcohol when used as an alternative fuel for motor vehicles.

STATUS: HB186 passed full House, with minor revision, 94-0 on 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on 2/12/09; SB66 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB188/SB288 – Establishes income tax credits for the installation of energy efficiency equipment in residences or commercial property – Energy Efficiency Act.

STATUS: HB188 assigned to House Education Appropriations Committee; SB288 first read 2/5/09 and assigned to Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB189/SB80 – Creates by statute the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy. Allows the committee to receive federal and private grants or gifts.

STATUS: HB189, with minor revisions, passed full House 98-0 on 2/10/09 and passed Senate Governmental Affairs Committee 6-0 on 2/24/09; SB80 passed Senate Government Affairs Committee 6-0 on 2/24/09

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB190 – Promotes reduction in fuel use and emissions from motor vehicles by allowing an additional 400-pound weight limit for vehicles equipped with a functioning auxiliary power or idle reduction technology.

STATUS: HB190 passed full House 88-0 on 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources on 2/12/09

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB191/SB67 – Provides for the procurement of state property using life cycle costing as part of the procedure.

STATUS: HB191, with minor revision, passed full House 95-0 on 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources on 2/12/09; SB67 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB192/SB68 – Provides for the use of life cycle costing in the procurement of state motor vehicles.

STATUS: HB192 passed full House 94-0 on 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources on 2/12/09; SB68 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB194/SB260 – Establishes the Alabama Public Interest Energy Research and Development Grants Program to provide funding for energy related public interest energy research and development. Establishes a 5-member commission composed of the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, Director of ADECA, President of the PSC, Commissioner of Agriculture, and chaired by the Lt. Governor.

STATUS: HB194, with revision for conditional funding only, passed full House 97-0 on 2/10/09 and passed 5-0 by Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Committee on 2/19/09; SB260 passed Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Committee on 2/19/09 with one amendment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB195 – Provides for \$100,000 from State General Fund for fiscal 2010 operations of Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy.

STATUS: HB195 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to House Government Appropriations Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB196 – Provides for conditional appropriation of \$250,000 from the State General Fund to the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy.

STATUS: HB196 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to House Government Appropriations Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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### **Transportation**

HB165 (Rep. Cam Ward) – Creates an Independent Transportation Commission. That commission appoints the Director of the Dept. of Transportation. (That position is currently a Governor appointment.)

STATUS: Passed full House with revisions 66-9-2 on 2/12/09 and not yet assigned to Senate Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB163/SB279 – Would take \$1 billion from Alabama Trust fund over the next ten years to fund road and bridge construction.

STATUS: SB163 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Elections Committee; SB279 passed Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee 11-1 with two amendments on 2/18/09. Defeated by 2 votes in full Senate (19-11) on 3/3/09.

POSITION: **STRONGLY OPPOSED**

HB217 – Gives ALDOT greater ability to seek private partnerships for toll road and expand access to funding to build more toll roads and bridges.

STATUS: Passed full House with substitutions and amendments 81-13 on 2/12/09 and first read in Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee on 2/17/09.

POSITION: **OPPOSED**

HB118/SB368 – Gives ALDOT responsibility to create a plan for developing Alabama's inland waterways; Sets up Inland Waterway Transportation Fund to support such development

STATUS: HB118 first read on 2/3/09 and assigned to House Government Operations Committee; SB368 passed Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee 8-0 on 2/26/09

POSITION: **OPPOSED**

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### Other Legislation

SB437 (Sen. Hank Erwin) – Allows replacement of billboards in certain geographic areas if they are destroyed by an act of God.

STATUS: SB437 first read 2/26/09 and assigned to Senate Governmental Affairs Committee

POSITION: **OPPOSED**

HB13 (Rep. Joseph Mitchell) – Requires ADEM to identify environmentally high impact areas on a county basis and compile data on toxic releases into the environment

STATUS: HB13 first read 2/3/09 and assigned to House Commerce Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB72/HB632 – Solid waste disposal management plan. Request considered denied if not acted upon within 90 days.

STATUS: SB72 first read 2/3/09 and passed the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee 5-0 on 3/3/09; HB632 first read 2/26/09 and assigned to House County and Municipal Government Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB309 (Sen. Hank Erwin) – Requires private businesses and governmental entities that operate an automated irrigation system to install a rain sensor to override the irrigation system if there has been adequate rainfall.

STATUS: SB309 first read 2/5/09 and assigned to Senate Government Affairs Committee

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB449 (Rep. Butch Taylor) – Prohibits any new rock quarry from operating within two miles of a school.\*

STATUS: Passed House Madison County Legislation Committee on 3/5/09.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB452 – Designates the West Indian Manatee as the official state marine mammal.

STATUS: Passed House Agriculture and Forestry Committee on 3/5/09.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB614 – Establishes permitting through the State Lands Division for piers or similar structures on state waterways that are not already regulated through Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Army Corps of Engineers.

STATUS: First read on 2/26/09 and referred to House Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB442 (Sen. Kim Benefield) – Prohibits local governments from adopting rules related to fertilizers.

STATUS: First read on 2/26/09 and assigned to Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee

POSITION: **OPPOSED**

SB462 (Sen. Roger Bedford) – Prohibits use of human waste bio-solids for fertilization in Franklin County.\*

STATUS: Passed Senate Committee on Local Legislation No. 1 on 3/5/09.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB463 (Sen. Roger Bedford) – Prohibits use of human waste bio-solids for fertilization in Colbert County.\*

STATUS: First read on 3/3/09 and referred to Senate Committee on Local Legislation No. 1.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

*\*Please note that these bills refer to local legislative matters.*