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STATE OF ALABAMA

December 11, 2019

Mr. Willard Bowers, Chairman
Alabama Water Resources Commission
c/o ADECA Office of Water Resources
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 434
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Chairman Bowers:

I want to thank the Alabama Water Resources Commission (AWRC) for the effort put forth in developing the "Roadmap for An Alabama Water Resources Management Plan" document. The Roadmap provides the assessment and recommendations for next steps I requested when I asked for the AWRC's review of Alabama's management of our water resources.

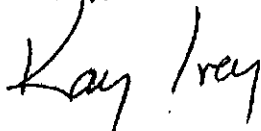
The Roadmap document provides a comprehensive review of previous water resources planning efforts while incorporating the findings from the water resources assessments conducted by the ADECA Office of Water Resources (OWR) and the Geological Survey of Alabama (GSA). Those assessments confirm that, while there are natural cycles of wet and dry periods, no area of the state is experiencing chronic and significant water resource issues that require immediate action. The Roadmap also refers to the existing water resource management legal authorities under the Alabama Water Resources Act, the Alabama Drought Planning and Response Act, and the various statutes regarding the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow River Watershed Management Authority, and the Geological Survey of Alabama. With these statutes, the respective regulations, and the coordination processes in place with various state and federal agencies, the Roadmap reinforces that there is no need for any additional legislation at the current time.

Based on these facts, I concur with the recommendation that Alabama's current water management laws, regulations, policies, and plans are presently adequate. Accordingly, I do not see the need to devote any more resources towards developing a singular document at this time. However, as outlined in my letter requesting the Roadmap, I have directed OWR to continue to regularly update water-use and availability summaries for the state, to update future water-use estimates as needed, and continue to look for ways that the State can improve water-use data collection and analysis, water conservation, and water-use efficiencies.

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Please extend my personal thanks to the members of the AWRC for their efforts on behalf of the citizens of Alabama and ask them to continue to review water resources management programs and policies and provide advice to myself and the Legislature on "all matters regarding the waters of the state" as dictated under the Alabama Water Resources Act. I direct OWR and GSA to continue with their periodic water resources assessment efforts and their coordination with the AWRC on any issues impacting the water resources of our great State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a distinct "Ivey" following.

Kay Ivey
Governor

Cc: Kenneth Boswell, ADECA Director
Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, State Geologist, Geological Survey of Alabama