



**DON SIEGELMAN**  
Governor, State of Alabama



**TIMOTHY C. BOYCE**  
State Forester

**O**NE OF Alabama's greatest assets is her unique natural heritage. We have made great progress in attracting to our state the finest businesses from around the world, and this continued economic growth depends upon ensuring Alabama's quality of life. We must preserve and protect Alabama's beauty, natural resources and natural heritage to ensure our state's future.

To that end, I recently signed an executive order creating the Alabama Commission on Environmental Initiatives. This commission is charged with the research and development of quality options and alternatives conducive to the long-term preservation of Alabama's natural environment. In addition to creating the commission, this executive order encourages the coordination of public and private efforts that help to relieve the environmental, physical and financial losses already experienced by many Alabama counties.

Among goals the commission will work to achieve are the improvement of water and air quality standards and the removal of Alabama's top-10 ranking among states for air emissions and toxic water discharges estimated for the year ending 2004.

The commission will meet quarterly and conduct public hearings through which Alabamians may offer ways to improve the state's quality of life. Its findings are due by Jan. 15, 2001.

I have named State Forester Timothy C. Boyce, along with other natural resources officials, to serve on the commission, and I am eager for the Forestry Commission's assistance in helping the Commission on Environmental Initiatives reach its goals.

**R**ECENTLY I was named by Governor Siegelman to the Alabama Commission on Environmental Initiatives. I welcome the opportunity to work with other environmental and community leaders to help encourage the long-term preservation of Alabama's natural environment. Here are some of the issues we will be addressing:

- Development, implementation and improvement of water quality and air quality standards;
- Identification of environmentally sensitive areas and the development of strategies to protect these areas;
- Examination and recommendations regarding the adoption of laws creating a vehicle emissions inspection program particularly in non-attainment counties in Alabama;
- Strategies for the restoration and renovation of Alabama's State Parks;
- Development of projects to clean up Alabama's roadsides, rivers, streams and lakes;
- Development of the necessary authority to enable the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to stop damaging runoff into Alabama's lakes and rivers;
- Possible reform or restructuring of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to increase the department's accountability to the people of Alabama;
- Development of strategies to promote and preserve Alabama's biodiversity; and
- Development of strategies to remove Alabama from the list of top 10 states in toxic air emissions and toxic water discharges by the end of 2004.

The Commission will meet quarterly and hold public meetings to involve the citizens of Alabama and receive their input. I commend the governor for taking the initiative to help protect Alabama's natural resources.