

March 4, 2019

Dear Legislator:

**Alabama's leading business and agriculture associations urge the Alabama legislature to restore funding for ADEM.**

All businesses and citizens in our state benefit from the programs administered by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), but funding cuts have shifted the public's share of the costs for funding the agency to the businesses who already pay substantial fees for permits issued by the agency.

Entities regulated by ADEM should and do pay for the cost of issuing and enforcing the environmental permits required by federal and state law. However, the business community stepped up and filled the hole when historic budget shortfalls caused the legislature to cut ADEM's General Fund appropriations from \$7.4 million in 2008 to less than \$0.6 million today.

In recent years, ADEM has cut costs where possible and permit fees have increased 114%. ADEM's reserves have now been exhausted as a result of inflation and the increased cost of administering water quality programs that benefit all Alabamians. As a result, the agency requires additional funding.

Our members have done their part. Now, we respectfully request that you and your colleagues in the Alabama legislature do your part by appropriating funds to support the environmental programs that serve all Alabamians.

The associations below ask that you grant ADEM's funding request:

