

1 STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF 1  
2 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
3 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
4 ALABAMA AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES  
5 RICHARD BEARD BUILDING  
6 Montgomery, Alabama  
7 March 1, 2014  
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12 **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**  
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16 Proceedings taken before Tracye  
17 Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR  
18 No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama  
19 at Large, at the Richard Beard Auditorium, 1445  
20 Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday,  
21 March 1, 2014, commencing at approximately  
22 9:00 a.m.  
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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: 2  
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3 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Chairman  
4 Mr. John McMillan  
5 Mr. Bill Hatley  
6 Dr. Bob Shipp  
7 Mr. Austin Ainsworth  
8 Dr. Warren Strickland  
9 Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.  
10 Mr. Grady Hartzog  
11 Dr. Gary Lemme  
12 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.  
13 Mr. T. J. Bunn, Jr.  
14 Mr. Jeff Martin  
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16 \*\*\*\*\*  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: I'd like to call to  
19 order our March 1, 2014, meeting of the  
20 Conservation Advisory Board.  
21 First of all, welcome to everyone.  
22 And I will be chairing today in the  
23 absence of Dan Moultrie. Dan had a  
family matter come up that prevented him  
from being here, and he apologizes to  
everyone. But hopefully we can do a  
good job in his absence.  
And if everybody will bear with us

1 today, we have a lot of people to 3  
2 speak. I know we want to hear from  
3 everyone that we can. And we're going  
4 to try to move as quickly as we can  
5 through the board agenda.  
6 One thing I would like to say is  
7 that I want to thank Commissioner John  
8 McMillan for letting us use the facility  
9 today. Thank you very much,  
10 Commissioner McMillan.  
11 You know, usually we have it over at  
12 the Capitol. A number of reasons -- for  
13 a number of reasons -- Ms. Jones and I  
14 did the best we could to get a meeting  
15 scheduled over there, but the  
16 legislature came in session. And  
17 Mr. McMillan and the Agriculture and  
18 Industries folks were gracious enough to  
19 let us have it here. So we appreciate  
20 that.  
21 All right. So with that, I would  
22 like to call on Mr. Joey Dobbs to give  
23 our invocation today. Mr. Dobbs.

1 MR. DOBBS: Bow your heads. 4  
2 Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for  
3 this day. Be with our friends and  
4 family as they move through this life.  
5 Bless this group that's here today. See  
6 to their safe travels home. Lead us all  
7 as stewards, Lord. Bless our troops  
8 that have provided the freedoms that we  
9 enjoy. Thank you for your bounty. In  
10 Christ's name we pray, Amen.  
11 (Crowd responds.)  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. At this time, for the  
13 benefit of everyone here, I would like  
14 for everyone at the table up here on the  
15 board to introduce themselves and what  
16 district they represent. And,  
17 Dr. Shipp, if I could start with you on  
18 the end, I would appreciate it very  
19 much.  
20 DR. SHIPP: I'm Bob Shipp, District 1, and I'm  
21 primarily a fish guy. I don't know too  
22 much about the rest of it, but I know my  
23 fish.

5  
1 MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.  
2 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.  
3 DR. LEMME: Gary Lemme, ex-officio director of  
4 the Alabama Cooperative Extension  
5 Service.  
6 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, District 5.  
7 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,  
8 Congressional District 5.  
9 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.  
10 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.  
11 MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.  
12 MR. McMILLAN: John McMillan, Commissioner of  
13 Agriculture and Industries.  
14 And let me tell you all something  
15 you might be interested in. Any of you  
16 that are interested, down at the  
17 Coliseum this weekend there's a big  
18 Alabama Horse Fair going on. So if any  
19 of you want to see some pretty horses  
20 and some interesting people, I encourage  
21 you to stop by.  
22 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: And I'm Gunter Guy, the

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1 Commissioner of Department of  
2 Conservation and Natural Resources for  
3 the State of Alabama.  
4 Our first item of business is  
5 approval of the minutes of the last  
6 meeting. Those minutes were in your  
7 packet.  
8 I would like to -- I would like to  
9 note a correction. In there on page  
10 140, line 3 -- y'all might remember  
11 there was a young man named Kenny Guy at  
12 the last meeting. And the court  
13 reporter got Kenny Guy and Commissioner  
14 Guy confused a couple of times, and we  
15 got most of them changed.  
16 But if you would change that,  
17 Tracye, on page 140, line 3. I think it  
18 should be Gunter -- Commissioner Guy as  
19 opposed to Kenny Guy.  
20 Were there any other corrections to  
21 the minutes of the last board meeting?  
22 MR. HATLEY: Move for approval.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Motion for

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1 approval. All in favor say "aye".  
2 (All board members present respond  
3 "aye".)  
4 CHAIRMAN GUY: Board minutes are approved as  
5 noted.  
6 All right. The next item of  
7 business will be -- will come under  
8 Commissioner's comments, but at this  
9 time I'm going to call on Director Chuck  
10 Sykes of our Wildlife and Freshwater  
11 Fisheries division to make a  
12 presentation to the board and to the  
13 members of the public. Director Sykes.  
14 And if you would like to, I think  
15 we're going to have to move down so that  
16 you can see the screen.  
17 MR. SYKES: Can everybody hear me, or do I  
18 need to get a mic?  
19 (Crowd responds.)  
20 MR. SYKES: All right. Can y'all hear me now?  
21 (Crowd responds.)  
22 MR. SYKES: In an effort to try to answer what  
23 I feel is going to be a large portion of

8  
1 the questions that we've got today, we  
2 thought it would be better to do a short  
3 PowerPoint like the Commissioner did  
4 last year. So hopefully this will  
5 expedite the meeting today. I'm just  
6 going to touch on some of the -- what we  
7 feel are the most appropriate changes  
8 that people are going to have questions  
9 about this year.  
10 The first one is the reduction of  
11 the antlerless bag limit from two does  
12 per day to one doe per day statewide.  
13 If y'all will remember last year, we did  
14 that in north Alabama. We had no  
15 complaints on that. It went off without  
16 a hitch.  
17 This is just an attempt to respond  
18 to the desires of the hunting public  
19 that's been talking to our biologists,  
20 all of our staff. And I've traveled  
21 pretty much throughout the state and had  
22 the same thing brought to my attention,  
23 that a lot of the hunters out there feel

9

1 like the deer numbers are not where they  
2 need to be and we need to start by  
3 reducing the antlerless bag limit.  
4 There will still be an opportunity  
5 for landowners who feel that they need  
6 to harvest more than one doe per day.  
7 You can sign up for the Deer Management  
8 Assistance Program. It's free of  
9 charge. Get a plan written up and you  
10 can harvest up to three antlerless deer  
11 per day. So this is not limiting the  
12 private landowner with their management  
13 program that need to harvest more  
14 antlerless deer. That is just a  
15 statewide reduction, but we're still  
16 giving you that opportunity.  
17 Another big topic was our February  
18 deer season shift that we had this  
19 year. Since 1995 more than 2500 deer  
20 have been sampled. We really stepped it  
21 up last year, and approximately 500 were  
22 taken in 2013. From all indications,  
23 the season was a success in southwest

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1 Alabama.  
2 So last year this is the data that  
3 we had to work with. Each one of those  
4 dots represents a sample where  
5 antlerless deer were taken. Necropsies  
6 were performed. Fetal studies were done  
7 to check the average conception date of  
8 deer in those areas.  
9 That's the zone that we tested last  
10 year. It mirrors Mississippi's February  
11 zone that they've had for a couple of  
12 years. And, again, from all indications  
13 it was a success.  
14 The 2013 data, you can see there's  
15 quite a few more dots popped up. Our  
16 challenge to our staff last year was to  
17 sample every county south of Highway 80,  
18 two spots per county. Like I said, we  
19 sampled almost 500 deer last year.  
20 The summary of the data is pretty  
21 convincing. South of Highway 80 a  
22 little over a thousand deer have been  
23 sampled during the study. The average

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1 conception date is January the 28th.  
2 North of Highway 80 about 1300 deer have  
3 been sampled. Conception date average  
4 is January the 11th. Once you get over  
5 near the Chattahoochee Valley, the  
6 sample size is smaller. It's 300. But  
7 the average conception date is around  
8 December the 30th. So you can see that  
9 unlike any other place in the country,  
10 we have got quite a bit of variation  
11 from county to county, region to region  
12 as to the average rut time in the state.  
13 The black line right here represents  
14 Highway 80. So you can see where most  
15 of the samples were taken this year.  
16 This coming season we plan to shoot  
17 intensively up through this region.  
18 There's only so many hours in a day and  
19 only so much time that our staff can get  
20 to this. So south of 80 is where we  
21 placed the highest priority last year.  
22 This year we will be shooting hard right  
23 in here, right in here on those areas

12

1 where we can try to clean those lines up  
2 a little bit, and then we will be moving  
3 our collections northward.  
4 The recommendations for the  
5 February -- or for deer season this  
6 year, the state will be broken down into  
7 two zones, Zone A and Zone B. In an  
8 attempt to fine-tune those boundary  
9 lines, as I pointed out, along the  
10 Chattahoochee Valley, our staff will be  
11 harvesting deer over the next month,  
12 prior to the next board meeting, where  
13 we can try to make those lines as clean  
14 and precise as we can. But y'all keep  
15 in mind, there's no way we're going to  
16 be able to get it 100 percent accurate.  
17 We're having to look at large road  
18 systems, large river systems, a clearcut  
19 boundary where our officers know where  
20 the line is and where the hunters know  
21 where the line is. So we're never going  
22 to be able to make everybody happy, but  
23 we're trying to do the best we can.

13

1 Archery season in Zone A, which is  
2 going to be predominantly north Alabama,  
3 is going to be the traditional season,  
4 October the 15th through January the  
5 31st; firearms season, November the 22nd  
6 through January the 13th -- I mean,  
7 31st. I'm sorry.

8 Zone B, which will have the February  
9 extension, archery season will come in  
10 ten days later just like it did this  
11 year, October the 25th. It will run  
12 through February the 10th. Firearms  
13 season will come in November the 22nd,  
14 run through November the 30th, shut down  
15 the 1st through the 10th, then come back  
16 in the 11th and run through February the  
17 10th.

18 We are recommending dog season go  
19 through the 25th instead of the 15th as  
20 it has traditionally. So just like we  
21 told everybody last year, it was a  
22 test. It worked. Conception data  
23 showed the rut was later. So we're

14

1 proposing you get your ten days added on  
2 just like we said.

3 Here's what the map will look like.  
4 Zone A is in north Alabama that comes  
5 down the Chattahoochee River right  
6 here. And, again, we will be shooting  
7 this heavily in an attempt to fine-tune  
8 these lines, and then our collection  
9 will start moving north where we can see  
10 if we need to move it even further north  
11 for next year.

12 There's a blowup of the area over  
13 along that Chattahoochee River. We're  
14 just trying to -- these are the best  
15 boundaries that we have right now.  
16 Hopefully over the next month, before  
17 the next board meeting, we're targeting  
18 areas right in here where perhaps we can  
19 be a little more precise.

20 Some miscellaneous changes for this  
21 year. The United States Forest Service  
22 has requested a reduction in a daily bag  
23 limit on their property to one deer per

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1 day -- not a buck and a doe per day or  
2 not two does per day. Just one deer.

3 The remainder of Morgan County will  
4 be open to spring turkey season.

5 There will be less than a  
6 one-percent increase in the CPI for all  
7 hunting licenses.

8 The bag limit on quail was reduced  
9 from 12 to eight due to population  
10 declines. This does not apply to  
11 preserves.

12 A special permit will be created to  
13 allow landowners to trap raccoons and  
14 possums for wildlife management  
15 purposes. It will be similar to our hog  
16 permit system that we have now.

17 And if y'all will remember the last  
18 board meeting of 2013, Mr. Jeff Martin  
19 made a proposal to reinstate 20 days of  
20 fall turkey season for 2013 and '14  
21 seasons as well as '14 and '15. So,  
22 therefore, we made no recommendations  
23 for changes for the fall turkey season

16

1 this year. It will be just like it was  
2 last year with the 20 days.

3 Just wanted to throw some population  
4 facts out there because a lot of numbers  
5 are getting thrown around right now as  
6 far as our turkey population goes. One  
7 thing I want you to understand, that  
8 5,000 estimate -- population estimate  
9 was gained from data prior to 2006,  
10 published in 2009. These numbers were  
11 not scientifically-based. They were  
12 based on anecdotal data for habitat  
13 types.

14 Hunters across the state, just as  
15 with the deer numbers, have been  
16 expressing concern to us that turkey  
17 numbers are lower than what they have  
18 been. So in an attempt to look at that,  
19 our concerns were validated in our 2013  
20 brood survey which showed our  
21 recruitment rate was the lowest it's  
22 been in the past 24 years.

23 With that being said, our division

17  
1 has formed a turkey committee that is  
2 working with Auburn University to  
3 explore some standardized methods to  
4 measure turkey productivity and  
5 abundance in Alabama. And Alabama is  
6 also participating in a multistate  
7 research project with Georgia with  
8 Dr. Mike Chamberlain. Because that  
9 decline is not just in Alabama. We're  
10 hearing that throughout the Southeast  
11 that turkey numbers are declining.  
12 And, finally, wildlife  
13 rehabilitation permits. Again, y'all  
14 remember at the last board meeting we  
15 had a discussion that we would work with  
16 the rehab facilities within the state  
17 and try to come up with revised policies  
18 and procedures. After many meetings and  
19 several discussions, we have developed a  
20 new policy that will allow the rehab of  
21 rabies vector species for one facility  
22 per district. So that will be five  
23 statewide.

18  
1 We have a dedicated employee on  
2 staff that is a rehab owner herself.  
3 She will be working with our department,  
4 working with rehab facilities throughout  
5 the state to set up standard practices  
6 and procedures where it can be  
7 monitored. The new policies require the  
8 rehabilitators to adhere to the National  
9 Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's  
10 caging and confinement standards and  
11 also require pre-exposure shots to  
12 handle rabies vectors.  
13 Thank you for your time and for  
14 coming today. I hope this answered a  
15 lot of the questions that we're going to  
16 have today. Thank you.  
17 Board, y'all can go back upstairs.  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: I want to thank Director Sykes  
19 for making that presentation to  
20 everyone. I hope that gives a little  
21 clarification to some of the issues that  
22 we will be looking at between now and  
23 the next meeting. As you know, we're

19  
1 going to listen to everyone's comments.  
2 We're going to take in those comments  
3 over the -- between now and the next  
4 meeting, you know, before we actually  
5 have the board take up any motions on  
6 that.  
7 I want to let everybody know that  
8 the conception data that he mentioned  
9 earlier in his presentation for the deer  
10 fetal studies, that is on the Website,  
11 Outdooralabama.com. Everyone can go to  
12 the Website and look at that  
13 information. I know the screen was kind  
14 of small today. If you desire to do  
15 that, it shows everything that he  
16 presented today.  
17 In addition to that, I'm sure,  
18 Chuck, we can get that other information  
19 that you presented today put up on the  
20 Website so people can see that as well.  
21 MR. SYKES: Yes, sir.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: And we'll try to make that  
23 available for everyone.

20  
1 All right. At this time what we  
2 would like to do is proceed with the  
3 public hearing. I think we have  
4 approximately 50 speakers. So let me go  
5 over a few ground rules that Chairman  
6 Moultrie always goes over.  
7 Number one, when your name is  
8 called, please come up to the  
9 microphone.  
10 Number two, give your name for the  
11 court reporter. Ms. Tracye sits right  
12 there, and she needs to be able to  
13 understand your name so she can  
14 correctly put it in the minutes. Also,  
15 tell everyone the topic you're speaking  
16 on, if you would.  
17 Number three, you know, please  
18 understand that you have three minutes  
19 to speak. And with the number of people  
20 we have today, we're going to have to be  
21 very conscientious of that time.  
22 Ms. Jones will be doing the timing. She  
23 will call out "time" when your three

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1 minutes is up, and I will give you 15  
2 seconds to wrap up. And that's all I  
3 can do with the number of people we have  
4 here today. I apologize. But you can  
5 always send in written comments to us or  
6 give Ms. Jones comments or anyone with  
7 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
8 comments, and we'll take all those into  
9 consideration and provide them to the  
10 board. So I hate to be like that, but  
11 we just need to move through the agenda  
12 for everybody. We've got a lot of  
13 people standing up today.  
14 We do have standing rules that have  
15 been in effect for a long time. That  
16 means please do not speak when other  
17 people are speaking. You know, give  
18 them the courtesy of letting them have  
19 their time at the microphone without  
20 interruption.  
21 Also, I think there's only one group  
22 of interested folks here where there may  
23 be more than ten speaking on the same

22

1 issue, in favor of the same issue.  
2 Y'all might want to talk. I'm going to  
3 have to limit that to ten just in the  
4 interest of time. And we understand  
5 when we get to the tenth one, everybody  
6 else that's in favor of that particular  
7 topic can stand up. The board can take  
8 note of that. And we understand that.  
9 And, again, we just don't have the time  
10 to go through everybody saying the same  
11 thing over and over, and we get that.  
12 So other than that, just please be  
13 pleasant when people are up at the  
14 microphone. We have officers here that  
15 will try to enforce our rules, and we  
16 don't want to have to ask anybody to  
17 leave. Haven't had to do that before  
18 and hopefully won't have to do that this  
19 time.  
20 Okay. With that said, our first  
21 speaker will be -- and, Avery, how do  
22 you manage to always be the first  
23 speaker?

23

1 MR. BATES: Put me last.  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: No, no, no. I just think you  
3 do a good job of getting up here and  
4 getting your name on the list first,  
5 Avery.  
6 MR. BATES: I don't do that.  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Avery Bates.  
8 I think it's because you know Chris  
9 Blankenship so well.  
10 MR. BATES: I know Chris quite well. I'm  
11 getting to know you, Commissioner Guy,  
12 all these functions we go to.  
13 Anyway, my name is Avery Bates. I'm  
14 vice-president of Organized Seafood  
15 Association, a long-time commercial  
16 fisherman. I represent the area of  
17 Mobile County and Baldwin County, too,  
18 for our commercial fishermen, which is a  
19 tremendous asset to this state and this  
20 country. We deal with a lot of commerce  
21 down there.  
22 But while I'm up at the mic, I want  
23 to -- representing some of the greatest

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1 volunteers of the state of Alabama, if  
2 you see Chauncey back there, boy, they  
3 work wonders through volunteer fire  
4 departments and rescue. And also dog  
5 fighters. They got a dog crew too.  
6 Usually they're chasing criminals that's  
7 broke loose trying to track them with  
8 bloodhounds and beagles.  
9 It works well, don't it, Chauncey?  
10 MR. WOOD: Yes, sir.  
11 MR. BATES: So if you've got a criminal that's  
12 loose, call Chauncey. He'll put you up  
13 with some good dog hunters to help find  
14 your criminal. But to get back on our  
15 subject, we got a lot to discuss and a  
16 very short time to discuss it.  
17 We're probably going to see some  
18 reallocation of our commercial fishing  
19 trying to be done by various groups.  
20 One of them is red snapper. We saw some  
21 reallocation years ago with our redfish  
22 and our speckled trout, and now you  
23 can't get an Alabama-caught wild

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1 redfish, an Alabama-caught speckled  
2 trout because they're gamefish. And as  
3 many of you know, we've had three  
4 proposals in the last few years to  
5 gamefish-status other species of fish,  
6 taking them away from the consumer and  
7 the market.  
8 And if you sit down in a restaurant,  
9 we are the ones, the commercial  
10 fishermen, that put that fish in that  
11 restaurant and in these markets  
12 that prefer Alabama wild-caught and  
13 Gulf-caught. One-third of our nation's  
14 seafoods come from our Gulf, and we want  
15 our nation to enjoy the products that  
16 the good Lord has blessed us with.  
17 Don't let user groups with special  
18 interests take them away from the people  
19 and the commerce of this state that  
20 flows through.  
21 They say, well, we're a small  
22 number. Well, we got a small number of  
23 farmers that feed this country. John

26

1 can -- up there -- what, we have around  
2 close to eight million people and only a  
3 small part of eight million people in  
4 Alabama is farmers that feed and help  
5 feed not only our state but many other  
6 states and some of the world.  
7 So if you see in anything that's  
8 coming up in this -- people wanting to  
9 take this away from the commercial  
10 fishermen -- remember, we have  
11 constitutional laws. That is property  
12 that belongs to you and the people of  
13 this state, not for just one entity or  
14 one segment. Some of them say we got  
15 120,000 members or 112,000 members.  
16 Look, we've got millions of people that  
17 has access to our seafoods, and that is  
18 their property too. Some that don't  
19 even fish can take their money and go  
20 buy it. 67 counties can enjoy seafoods  
21 through the markets. Let's don't cut  
22 our people out by special-interest laws  
23 and regulations.

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1 MS. JONES: Time.  
2 MR. BATES: 15 seconds?  
3 MS. JONES: Five, four ...  
4 MR. BATES: Keep in mind, Alabama state law  
5 Section 1, Article 16 -- Article 1,  
6 Section 6 and Article 35. We're  
7 entitled to life, liberty, and  
8 property. Keep eating that property  
9 from our commercial fishermen. Don't  
10 shut the waters down to us or the  
11 resource. Keep what the  
12 Magnuson-Stevens Act says, a fair  
13 balance with good biology. Thank you.  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. Bates.  
15 Pete Barber.  
16 MR. BARBER: My name is Pete Barber. I'm the  
17 president of the Alabama Seafood  
18 Association, but I'm not here to talk  
19 about that topic. Avery, I think,  
20 covered it pretty well.  
21 Last Saturday I went to Bryant High  
22 School and attended an archery meet, 535  
23 kids ranging from at least fourth grade

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1 up through high school. I know at least  
2 fourth grade because my grandson is in  
3 fourth grade and he was one of the  
4 shooters.  
5 It's -- you can look up and down the  
6 shooting lines and you see maybe  
7 three-foot-six to six-foot-two and  
8 everything in between. None of these  
9 kids are six-foot-eight looking for  
10 basketball scholarships or weigh 300  
11 pounds or can run the 40 in 4.5. But  
12 the ability and the accomplishment they  
13 get off the archery competition is every  
14 bit as valuable.  
15 When you see -- I saw a little  
16 girl -- a young girl -- young lady last  
17 week with the first ever arrow sticking  
18 out of the yellow bullseye. You can  
19 never take that away from her. That's  
20 an accomplishment. And this type of  
21 proficiency is available to all of our  
22 kids.  
23 One school that I'm involved with,

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1 St. Dominic's Catholic School, they've  
2 been at it for two months. And this was  
3 their second meet, and their scores were  
4 almost double what they were the first  
5 meet.  
6 Of course, Bryant High School, which  
7 is near and dear to my heart, have seven  
8 or eight state championships. And there  
9 is a state championship coming up  
10 April 11th in Montgomery, and I urge you  
11 all to get involved if you can. It's --  
12 hopefully it's a growing thing.  
13 Commissioner, I'd like to lobby you  
14 right now to have somebody cover that  
15 and get some kind of publicity, get  
16 "Outdoor Alabama" or whatever. These  
17 kids -- what I've seen with our high  
18 school kids over the years, we don't  
19 lose them. They graduate. We have two  
20 kids on the -- coming back this year.  
21 I wanted to rag Commissioner  
22 Moultrie or -- Moultrie, but he's not  
23 here today. He keeps saying that

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1 they're going to beat us. But we have  
2 two kids coming back from last year's  
3 team who made the All-American team and  
4 did a tour of Africa in last July.  
5 That's the kind of thing those kids  
6 would never have an opportunity to do.  
7 But for so many other reasons -- we  
8 had one kid, an eighth-grader from  
9 Saraland, who just last season went bow  
10 hunting with his father, and he started  
11 talking about it to the kids as they  
12 waited their turns to shoot. And I saw  
13 ten or 12 kids go up in the stands and  
14 ask their mother and father if they can  
15 go bow hunting too. And these are kids  
16 that don't have an outdoor tradition in  
17 their families. That's the future. If  
18 we don't keep the hunting rights up, the  
19 environmentalists and people are going  
20 to try to shut it down.  
21 MS. JONES: Time.  
22 MR. BARBER: And that's all I have to say.  
23 But, Commissioner, I would ask that you

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1 help with some kind of publicity. It  
2 would really boost these kids' morale.  
3 Thank you.  
4 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. Barber. And  
5 thank you for -- thanks for those  
6 comments and thank you for your support  
7 of the Archery in the Schools program.  
8 And it's a great youth program. And our  
9 department does support it through our  
10 hunter education, and we'll continue to  
11 try to promote it as much as we can.  
12 Ms. Jessica Flowers.  
13 MS. FLOWERS: Hello. My name is Jessica  
14 Flowers, and I'm here today to talk  
15 about and discuss hunting feral hogs  
16 with dogs on wildlife management.  
17 I am a hog hunter and I do hunt with  
18 dogs. And as a tax-paying citizen of  
19 the state, I should have the right to  
20 hunt wildlife management areas just as  
21 everyone else. The only difference is I  
22 use dogs instead of guns and bows.  
23 It's obvious the state of Alabama

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1 has a problem with feral hogs on most  
2 wildlife management areas. And the  
3 state has been denying hog hunters the  
4 right to pursue the invasive and  
5 nuisance animals just because we use  
6 dogs to hunt them.  
7 The legal section of the state said  
8 to pursue feral hogs is not enough to  
9 control the issue with wildlife  
10 management areas we face with the feral  
11 hogs. Methods including trapping,  
12 shooting have not been effective -- as  
13 dog hunting your hogs in the state that  
14 will not be in -- in other states but  
15 will not be in Alabama in controlling  
16 the population of hogs. Why not open  
17 the wildlife management area to hunters  
18 that are dedicated to hunting feral hogs  
19 with dogs.  
20 Hog hunters are very compassionate  
21 about what we do. We put a lot of time  
22 and money into our dogs in an effort to  
23 breeding and raising and training dogs



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1 for the purpose of hog hunting. The  
2 average hog hunter spends anywhere from  
3 4,000 to \$8,000 a year on hog dogs and  
4 care. And all we're asking is for you  
5 to please allow us the right to hunt on  
6 the wildlife management with dogs.  
7 We do take the meat that we preserve  
8 and we do eat anywhere from 20 to 30  
9 percent. The other meat that we  
10 preserve goes to feeding the hungry. We  
11 donate it to charity and churches in  
12 surrounding areas. We are compassionate  
13 about what we do. We do take our  
14 children out and they enjoy it. I have  
15 my son here today. He enjoys it. It's  
16 something that we love to do, but we're  
17 not allowed to do it on wildlife. And  
18 there are a lot of hogs on wildlife, and  
19 we would enjoy to be able to take the  
20 dogs out there and be compassionate  
21 about what we do.  
22 It's not only just men that are  
23 doing it now. It's women and children.

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1 And I'm sure you've all, if not seen it,  
2 heard it on TV. So it's becoming a big  
3 sport. And the reason it's becoming a  
4 big sport is because the hog population  
5 is getting bigger.  
6 But all I ask is for you to please  
7 consider it. And, you know, we would  
8 appreciate any kind of leniency you can  
9 give us, whether it be a season or  
10 whether it be tags, you know, so we can  
11 have that opportunity to hunt hogs on  
12 wildlife. Thank you.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, ma'am.  
14 Amy George. Ms. George.  
15 MS. GEORGE: I decline to speak. We're going  
16 to let John speak instead.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Mindy Gilbert.  
18 Is just one going to speak, then, on  
19 the -- okay. So is it Mr. Morse?  
20 MR. MORSE: Yes.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Morse. Thank you, sir.  
22 And thank y'all for doing that very  
23 much.

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1 MR. MORSE: Trying to speed the process along.  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. I appreciate that  
3 very much. Thank you.  
4 MR. MORSE: Hi. Hello, I'm John Morse. I'm  
5 from Enterprise, Alabama, Coffee  
6 County. I am the spokesperson for the  
7 Alabama Wildlife Alliance, AWA.  
8 First of all, rehabilitators are not  
9 against hunters. We believe in hunting  
10 and it all has a process.  
11 AWA comprises -- of the five  
12 districts of the wildlife conservation,  
13 we have five different people or --  
14 correction -- five different alliances  
15 of the wildlife rehabilitators. We  
16 appreciate WFF to meet us with allowing  
17 us to continue rehabilitating.  
18 We do have some problem areas. One  
19 of the big problem areas that just  
20 stands out right now, when you say we  
21 have a facility in each one of the  
22 districts, right now we have three  
23 facilities in District 1 because of the

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1 volume of the animals. That's going to  
2 cause a problem. What you're probably  
3 going to end up having to do is you'll  
4 shut down two nonprofit organizations  
5 that really do want to do this. They're  
6 already trained. They already have all  
7 the prevaccinations and everything.  
8 So there is a problem there. We can  
9 work with you. We're willing to work  
10 with you. But we do have to address  
11 that because it does, in fact, cause a  
12 lot of problems, especially in  
13 District 1. Some of the other districts  
14 are going to be okay.  
15 But one of the things that we would  
16 like the board to really think about and  
17 to kind of understand is that we would  
18 like you -- or we're asking for the  
19 board to kind of accept AWA as the  
20 rehabilitator -- rehabilitation  
21 authority or association with all the  
22 rehabilitators. We're a network. We  
23 don't do things just because we want to

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1 do them. We do them because it's the  
2 right thing to do. Plus, we also  
3 communicate, because why should we  
4 relearn a mistake.

5 So we talk to each other. We have  
6 this network. And we would like the  
7 board to kind of accept the fact that  
8 you have a group of professional people  
9 that are doing this for free, on their  
10 own dime. And we do not do this in a  
11 vacuum. We try to do it in a good  
12 working order.

13 So we are just asking that, you  
14 know, as five districts that have all  
15 good quality rehabilitators, kind of  
16 accept us as an organization that is  
17 willing to work with you all. And  
18 that's what we're asking for today is  
19 just accept AWA as a working entity  
20 within the state that's willing to work  
21 with everybody; okay?

22 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
23 MR. MORSE: Super. Thank you very much, and

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1 we really appreciate the WFF to lengthen  
2 the -- our ability to operate as  
3 rehabilitators.

4 CHAIRMAN GUY: I know our WFF division has  
5 been working with you and they'll  
6 continue to work with you and talk with  
7 you more about this.

8 MR. MORSE: Super. We look forward to that.

9 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Stephen Tucker.  
10 Did I get that name right?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was it?

12 CHAIRMAN GUY: Stephen Tucker concerning  
13 turtles.

14 Am I missing Mr. Tucker?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's out here.

16 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. He's talking.

17 While I'm waiting on Mr. Tucker, let  
18 me make sure I didn't skip somebody that  
19 shouldn't have been skipped.

20 So for the rehab issue, was there a  
21 Richard McNabb?

22 MR. McNABB: Yes.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: I skipped you. I think you --

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1 you're not here on the rehab issue, are  
2 you?

3 MR. McNABB: No, sir, I'm not. A different --

4 CHAIRMAN GUY: A different part of the rehab.  
5 Okay. Would you come up, then -- I'm  
6 sorry -- while we're waiting on  
7 Mr. Tucker. I'm sorry.

8 And before you start, sir, what I  
9 have for rehab is Ms. Gilbert,  
10 Mr. Morse. It's Terry. Maybe it's  
11 Ms. Morse. And then I had Mallie  
12 Smith. Okay. Did I miss anybody there?  
13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. So I apologize,  
15 Mr. McNabb. Why don't you go ahead and  
16 speak to us at this time.

17 MR. McNABB: Mr. Chairman and esteemed  
18 Advisory Board members, thank you for  
19 allowing me to come before you today.  
20 I'm Richard McNabb, a 53-year-old  
21 medical professional and a resident of  
22 Semmes, Alabama, in Mobile County.  
23 I come before you to request a

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1 simple verbiage change in your nongame  
2 species regulation 220-2-.92. It reads  
3 it shall be unlawful to collect or offer  
4 for sale any box turtle of the genus  
5 Terrapene. The regulation also allows  
6 Alabama residents to own one box turtle  
7 of the genus Terrapene.

8 There are three non-native box  
9 turtles that have been caught up in this  
10 regulation because of that word  
11 "Terrapene." Since it's illegal to  
12 collect box turtles from the wild, many  
13 of the turtles owned are non-native.  
14 However, no one is allowed to breed  
15 them.

16 You, the department, and I are all  
17 on the same page. We need to protect  
18 box turtles native to our great state.  
19 However, I propose that you simply add  
20 the words "native to Alabama" to the  
21 regulation to allow individuals to work  
22 with non-native box turtles. This  
23 proposal will continue to protect those

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1 turtles native to Alabama, which is your  
2 intent and mine as well.

3 Out of all the surrounding states,  
4 Alabama is the only state to regulate  
5 owning non-native box turtles. Other  
6 states have native to, indigenous to, or  
7 exempted non-native box turtles in their  
8 regulation and have had no issues.  
9 Alabama also offers a free permit which  
10 allows individuals to breed, farm, and  
11 sell aquatic turtles. However,  
12 non-native box turtles are the only  
13 reptile singled out with regulation.

14 I've heard officials comment no one  
15 should profit from the sale of  
16 wildlife. Nearly every pet store in  
17 Alabama sells non-native reptiles such  
18 as snakes, tortoises, and lizards. The  
19 majority of reptiles they sell are  
20 captive-born reptiles, not wild. They  
21 should be viewed not as wildlife.

22 Out of the thousands of non-native  
23 reptiles being kept and bred by Alabama

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1 residents, only the non-native box  
2 turtle, again, has been regulated. How  
3 could what I'm asking for benefit  
4 Alabama?

5 Allowing captive-born, non-native  
6 box turtles to be available would  
7 directly reduce the illegal collecting  
8 and trade. I could create the first box  
9 turtle rehab or placement facility in  
10 the state. I could accept unwanted sick  
11 or -- just unwanted or sick box turtles  
12 so they're not simply released back into  
13 the wild. They could be placed for  
14 adoption or kept for breeding. Native  
15 offspring produced could be turned over  
16 to the state for species  
17 reintroduction.

18 I'm also known by the Department of  
19 Conservation as I have already worked in  
20 breeding endangered black pine snakes in  
21 the past. I could also conduct  
22 educational programs regarding box  
23 turtles and the responsibility that goes

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1 along with keeping them.

2 Amending this regulation is not  
3 about giving up control. Guidelines or  
4 conditions could also be part of this  
5 change. This change not only benefits  
6 those that desire to work with  
7 non-native turtles. The real winners  
8 are the turtles themselves. Please  
9 support captive breeding by adding  
10 "native to Alabama" to the regulation.

11 Thank you for your time regarding this  
12 matter.

13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. McNabb.  
14 MR. McNABB: Do y'all have any questions?

15 And I have a packet up there. It's  
16 paper-clipped. It shows some of the  
17 states' regulations as well as my  
18 presentation. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
20 Now Mr. Tucker.  
21 MR. TUCKER: I apologize.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: No problem.  
23 MR. TUCKER: So my name is Stephen Tucker.

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1 I'm a --

2 CHAIRMAN GUY: If you would, come up to the  
3 microphone, please.

4 (Brief interruption.)

5 MR. TUCKER: So I'm a homeowner in Leeds,  
6 Alabama, for 24 years. I'm a resident  
7 of this state, 49 -- well, 45 of my 49  
8 years here. And the reason I state  
9 that, I'm a turtle farmer, and as you  
10 know -- if you'll look at the front  
11 sheet there, you'll recall back that  
12 there was testimony in February of 2012,  
13 and based on that testimony, this was  
14 the new regulations that came out at the  
15 very next conservation meeting.

16 And I'm here to request, as others  
17 have, that our regulations become more  
18 in line with our neighboring states. I  
19 think that's -- part of the  
20 initiative -- part of the reason we took  
21 this action is because Georgia and  
22 Florida had taken actions. And we took  
23 an incredibly stringent action, you

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1 know, as if -- I was waiting in the tag  
2 line -- of course, this is an imperfect  
3 analogy. But I've been in the tag line  
4 in Jefferson County for three hours and  
5 they come up and say, well, we're going  
6 home at 12 today. Sorry. You know,  
7 maybe come back tomorrow.  
8 We just didn't have any warning. We  
9 didn't have any opportunity to prepare  
10 ourselves. And it's my hope that we'll  
11 be given the opportunity to go out and  
12 collect our brood stock.  
13 And I just want to briefly -- you've  
14 all, I think, got a handout there. I  
15 just want to dispel some  
16 misinformation.  
17 The main reason there was such a  
18 rise in the application for turtle  
19 licenses -- and that might have been  
20 alarming for you guys. I think there  
21 are only 35 of us doing it, but it went  
22 from like ten to 35 in maybe two years.  
23 And so the reason that happened is

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1 because this third turtle -- or,  
2 actually, the second turtle that we're  
3 looking at here -- the first turtle is a  
4 matamata from New Zealand, and they  
5 might pay \$200 for that at the pet store  
6 here or in Asian/European markets. And  
7 the second turtle is our turtle. He is  
8 a Sternotherus minor minor, and he  
9 also sells for \$200 in the pet trade.  
10 We do not round up these things and  
11 throw them back into crates. This is  
12 not being sent over there for food.  
13 These are people that are becoming  
14 economically more powerful. And they  
15 have small spaces generally if they live  
16 in town, and that's where the  
17 economically powerful people are. And  
18 an aquarium is a perfect -- this little  
19 turtle is a perfect pet for them.  
20 Also, this little turtle --  
21 MS. JONES: Time.  
22 MR. TUCKER: -- has a great personality.  
23 Sorry.

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: You have 15 seconds to wrap up,  
2 please, sir.  
3 MR. TUCKER: Thank you.  
4 So he has a great personality. And  
5 there are meat turtles, but he's not one  
6 of them. And this is what all the fuss  
7 is about. It's this turtle. He lives  
8 in Alabama and he's abundant.  
9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. We have your  
10 handout. The board will look at that.  
11 And thank you very much for your  
12 presentation.  
13 MR. TUCKER: Thank you, gentlemen, very much.  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: O.C. Harrison.  
15 Mr. Harrison. Thank you, sir.  
16 MR. HARRISON: Thank you. Thank you, members  
17 of the board, for giving me an  
18 opportunity to voice my concerns about  
19 fishing on Lake Martin. My most concern  
20 is about the crappie in Lake Martin.  
21 It's getting harder and harder to go and  
22 catch a mess of fish.  
23 But the biggest thing I see about

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1 the fishing on Lake Martin is light  
2 fishing at night. And I know we can't  
3 hunt deer at night with a light. So I  
4 would ask the board if they could  
5 consider doing away with portable  
6 lighting.  
7 And another concern about the  
8 crappie is the saltwater stripe. I know  
9 we probably can't do anything about  
10 that, but they are eating a lot of our  
11 crappie.  
12 And maybe consider raising the  
13 length limit to ten inches and lowering  
14 the creel maybe to 20. I think, you  
15 know, a family of -- if you had ten-inch  
16 crappie, 20, I think, would feed a  
17 family. And help us build our, you  
18 know, crappie population back up.  
19 I've lived on Lake Martin all of my  
20 life, and I'm getting on up in age. I  
21 kind of like to fish lazy, you know.  
22 Crappie is kind of a lazy way of  
23 fishing. Can't throw my shoulder away

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1 no more on bass fishing.  
2 But I wish you would consider that.  
3 I'm not sure if you've had other people  
4 with that concern or not, but I talk to  
5 a lot of them that are. And I see  
6 people just come in by droves fishing at  
7 night with lights. I've seen boats out  
8 there that look like condos out there  
9 lit up so. And those lights attract  
10 fish.  
11 Brother Bob, I heard you say you're  
12 a fisherman, so you probably know.  
13 Well, you do know, I'm sure. But I  
14 thank y'all and I wish you could  
15 consider that.  
16 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
17 MR. HARTZOG: Didn't this issue come up in  
18 conversation and didn't we ask the  
19 Fisheries to -- weren't they going to --  
20 weren't they about to do some shocking  
21 studies on the lake when it was brought  
22 up last time?  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Cook, do you want to

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1 address that, or can you?  
2 MR. COOK: That lake --  
3 CHAIRMAN GUY: Why don't you stand up, if you  
4 would, please.  
5 MR. COOK: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.  
6 CHAIRMAN GUY: Do you want to address that  
7 just quickly with the board, just  
8 anything that you -- or you just want to  
9 talk to him and we'll just get back --  
10 MR. COOK: Really you need to get into  
11 in-depth conversation about population  
12 dynamics, and I'd be happy to talk to  
13 the gentleman about it and provide a  
14 report to the board if they want it.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Harrison, if you would just  
16 talk to Mr. Cook here and some of his  
17 staff, and then we'll look at your  
18 issue. Thank you.  
19 Dwayne Moxley. Mr. Moxley. Thank  
20 you, sir.  
21 MR. MOXLEY: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm  
22 Dwayne Moxley from Munford, which is in  
23 Talladega County. I come to speak on

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1 trying to get snatch fishing and spider  
2 fishing stopped on the Coosa chain.  
3 These guys go down there and tie on  
4 these two five-dollar hooks with a  
5 five-ounce weight. And when they're  
6 generating water below these dams, the  
7 fish come up there to spawn, and they're  
8 snatching these fish. They do get some  
9 of them and some of them they don't  
10 get. The ones they don't get, the hooks  
11 pull out of it and it just rips the  
12 sides out of the fish. We catch them  
13 with sores all over them, with one eye,  
14 a lot of different things. And so I'd  
15 like for y'all to take into  
16 consideration of maybe trying to stop  
17 snatch fishing.  
18 And the spider fishing is on Logan  
19 Martin Lake. You can have as many rods  
20 as you can tie on a boat. There will be  
21 boats down there with two guys in it  
22 that will have 16 rods. And the dam --  
23 the lake right above us, which is Neely

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1 Henry, they're only allowed three rods  
2 per person on that lake, and you come  
3 right down to the next lake, to Logan  
4 Martin, and you can have all that you  
5 can put in your boat if you can -- you  
6 know, and I think it's overfishing the  
7 waters for my grandchildren that's  
8 coming up that's going to like to fish  
9 and do things.  
10 And I'd just like for y'all to take  
11 into consideration of stopping the  
12 snatch fishing below the dams on the  
13 Coosa and the spider fishing on Logan  
14 Martin. And that's basically it.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, Mr. Moxley.  
16 MR. MOXLEY: Thank you.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: I think that may be illegal as  
18 it stands; correct?  
19 No. Okay. Not on the Coosa.  
20 All right. So we appreciate your  
21 comments. We'll look at that.  
22 Howard O'Neal.  
23 MR. O'NEAL: Hello. I'm Howard O'Neal from

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1 Helena, Alabama. I'm a private  
2 landowner in Dallas County and in Shelby  
3 County.  
4 First of all, I want to thank you  
5 for your service on this board to  
6 promote the wildlife and fisheries in  
7 Alabama. I know there's a lot of  
8 thankless things that go on on the  
9 Internet and y'all catch a lot of heat  
10 for stuff, but there are people that  
11 appreciate what you do.  
12 What I'm proposing is -- I was  
13 introduced to air gun -- air-rifle  
14 hunting a few years ago, and I would  
15 like to see the air rifle be added to  
16 the special muzzleloader season that  
17 comes in right before rifle season.  
18 I've got a couple of reasons for that.  
19 The effective range of the air rifle  
20 on an adult deer is probably -- is  
21 approximately a hundred yards. A  
22 modern-day muzzleloader has an effective  
23 range of 200-plus yards. So effectively

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1 you're lessening your chance of killing  
2 a deer. So it's not increasing your  
3 harvest rate, I don't think.  
4 An air rifle is actually quieter  
5 than your muzzleloader, which will not  
6 spook the game. So if you have a  
7 predator that comes out that you want to  
8 take, you know, you could shoot a coyote  
9 or whatever and really not affect your  
10 hunt in my opinion. And other states,  
11 as well as us, have primitive weapons  
12 season, and I would consider an air  
13 rifle a primitive weapon.  
14 Another point is, it adds another  
15 challenging form of hunting. You know,  
16 with a hundred-yard effective range,  
17 you're really decreasing your ability to  
18 harvest an animal. And you really have  
19 to have good shot placement and be a  
20 better hunter to harvest the animal  
21 ethically.  
22 I'm pretty lazy. I hate cleaning my  
23 muzzleloader. So that's one reason I

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1 would like to do this. You know,  
2 cleaning a muzzleloader every -- you  
3 have to clean it every time you shoot it  
4 and fire it, and I just really don't  
5 like doing that. So that's one reason  
6 that I personally would like to get this  
7 moving.  
8 The other thing is unloading the gun  
9 is -- to make it completely safe is  
10 easy. The model that I have has a  
11 magazine. You just disconnect the  
12 magazine. You do have to fire it to  
13 discharge the bullet. But then the gun  
14 is completely safe. So you can take it  
15 in your house. With a muzzleloader --  
16 and I know I'm -- y'all probably don't  
17 want to hear this, but I'm as guilty as  
18 anybody -- but just taking the primer  
19 out, leaving the propellant and the  
20 bullet in the gun and putting it on the  
21 gun rack. Not the safest thing to do.  
22 You know, so if I've got a pellet rifle  
23 or my air-gun rifle, you know, I'm going

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1 to do away with my muzzleloader, so ...  
2 And another thing is my younger sons  
3 and my wife love shooting it. There's  
4 no recoil. It's about like the recoil  
5 of a .22, maybe a little bit more. And  
6 so like younger hunters, it's hard to  
7 get them to go in and pull the trigger  
8 on a 150-grain of black powder with a  
9 200-grain bullet.  
10 MS. JONES: Time.  
11 MR. O'NEAL: You got a pretty good amount of  
12 recoil on that. And so I think it would  
13 add effectiveness to the children and  
14 women as well. And, again, thank you  
15 for everything you do and thank you for  
16 the consideration.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. Thank you for  
18 coming.  
19 Commissioner McMillan.  
20 MR. McMILLAN: What did you say the effective  
21 range would be for a deer?  
22 MR. O'NEAL: I believe it's a hundred yards,  
23 maybe under that. But I wouldn't shoot

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1 anything over a hundred yards with it.  
2 MR. HATLEY: What caliber?  
3 MR. O'NEAL: I think the regulation now is a  
4 .30-caliber bullet. Mine's a .357.  
5 I'm not asking to change any -- the  
6 regulations. Just extend the same  
7 firearm that you can use -- just add it  
8 to that muzzleloader season, the same --  
9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland.  
10 DR. STRICKLAND. Could I ask a couple of  
11 questions?  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes.  
13 DR. STRICKLAND: What about the kinetic  
14 energy? I guess my concern, is it -- I  
15 mean, is it effective to actually put a  
16 deer down at, you know, 50 or 60 yards  
17 without wounding the animal?  
18 MR. O'NEAL: It's effective enough for y'all  
19 to add it to the regular gun season. So  
20 it's the same -- it's legal starting  
21 November 22nd with regular firearms.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland, I killed two  
23 does this year with an air gun, and

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1 Director Sykes killed -- I don't know --  
2 a couple of bucks and several does. We  
3 need to take you hunting with one. It's  
4 very interesting.  
5 MR. O'NEAL: It's cool.  
6 DR. STRICKLAND: You know, I'm just -- you  
7 know, I'm thinking of the air rifles I  
8 had, my Red Ryder.  
9 MR. O'NEAL: Well, this isn't your normal air  
10 rifle. And when you're talking kinetic  
11 energy, you're way above my head.  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: And they're not inexpensive  
13 either by the way. But thank you for  
14 your comments and -- Mr. Dobbs.  
15 MR. DOBBS: I was just curious how many days  
16 there are -- and I don't have it in  
17 front of me. But you don't get many  
18 extra days to --  
19 MR. O'NEAL: No. I think it's Monday through  
20 Friday.  
21 MR. DOBBS: Yeah. Seven days, six days.  
22 MR. O'NEAL: And it ends -- muzzleloader  
23 season starts the Monday after youth

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1 weekend, I believe, and runs through the  
2 Friday before regular gun season. So  
3 it's only four or five days.  
4 CHAIRMAN GUY: Have you talked with Director  
5 Sykes about that yet?  
6 MR. O'NEAL: A little bit, yes, sir.  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Well, we'll take those  
8 comments into consideration.  
9 And for all of you on the board that  
10 want to learn more about air rifles, you  
11 need to talk with Chuck. He very much  
12 knows a lot about it.  
13 I'm sorry. Dr. Lemme.  
14 DR. LEMME: The air-rifle program within the  
15 Alabama 4-H shooting sports program is  
16 one of our fastest growing, and it's  
17 definitely -- what I think is really  
18 neat is the number of young ladies that  
19 are doing it. We've seen a decrease in  
20 the number of participants in our .22  
21 and a huge increase in our .177 air  
22 rifle competitions. So there's a  
23 growing interest.

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. Thank you, sir.  
2 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you.  
3 CHAIRMAN GUY: Matt -- is it Passino or  
4 Passino?  
5 MR. PASSINO: It's Passino.  
6 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
7 MR. PASSINO: My name is Matt Passino. I'm  
8 from Hoover, Alabama. I typically hunt  
9 in Bibb County. I'm a landowner in Bibb  
10 County. And I'm here today to talk with  
11 you about supporting legal Alabama  
12 suppressor hunting or silencers, another  
13 name they go by.  
14 I've got -- I've given y'all two  
15 packets of information. One is just  
16 kind of a PowerPoint presentation. The  
17 other one is a research study on a  
18 comparison between silencers and hearing  
19 protection, the differences between the  
20 two as far as what decibel levels you  
21 can get with them.  
22 So I'm proposing to amend the  
23 current regulation that states it shall

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1 be unlawful to possess fully automatic  
2 firearms or silenced firearms while  
3 hunting any species of wildlife and to  
4 delete the portion that says "or  
5 silenced firearms." And the rationale  
6 to that is suppressors reduce the risk  
7 of hearing damage to hunters and other  
8 bystanders without impairing safety and  
9 reduce general environmental noise  
10 impact enhancing the enjoyment of  
11 Alabama natural resources.  
12 Exposure to noise greater than 140  
13 decibels can permanently damage  
14 hearing. Almost all firearms create  
15 noise that is over 140-decibel level.  
16 Suppressors reduce the noise levels less  
17 likely to -- so they're less likely to  
18 damage hearing by hunters and  
19 bystanders.  
20 Suppressors do not make firearms  
21 silent. They only reduce the noise  
22 level, and typically by 30 decibels is  
23 about the most that you can get out of

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1 something. And with the firearms we're  
2 talking about, 140 decibels is basically  
3 kind of an average of what the different  
4 calibers are creating as far as peak  
5 noise level.  
6 So we're really talking about  
7 something that decreases it -- not to  
8 where it's silent -- to where it sounds  
9 more like a nail gun or something to  
10 that effect and to where it's safe to be  
11 next to it without having to wear  
12 hearing protection. Some of the  
13 benefits of that is it's easier to  
14 encompass more people by protecting  
15 hearing on more people. So if you had a  
16 minor with you while you're hunting, you  
17 don't have to worry about them keeping  
18 earplugs on or earmuffs on.  
19 Also, it benefits the hunter in that  
20 the recoil will not cause you to miss or  
21 pull a shot. It's -- it's much less --  
22 you lose the concussion out of it, and  
23 it's more like shooting a .22 rifle than

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1 it is like shooting a .223 or a .308.  
2 MS. JONES: Time.  
3 MR. PASSINO: I've included a map for just  
4 different states and different  
5 regulations. A lot of states are  
6 changing laws. I think there was a  
7 perception in the past that these were  
8 silent and these were some sort of  
9 negative device, but they're basically  
10 just used for hearing protection now.  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate  
12 it.  
13 Wesley Peters. How are you doing?  
14 MR. PETERS: Not too bad. Thanks for having  
15 me today. I may be the only person in  
16 the room concerned with trapping  
17 regulations. But in the interest of  
18 saving time, I've got a quick passage  
19 that I prepared I want to read to  
20 y'all.  
21 I'd like to ask the board to  
22 re-examine the legal limits on land-set,  
23 body-grip type traps. As the relevant

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1 regulations stand, the use of a  
2 body-grip trap larger than five-by-five  
3 on land is illegal. This largely  
4 removes a very effective type of trap  
5 from the arsenal of the trapper in  
6 pursuit of animals, primarily raccoons,  
7 possums, and to a lesser extent bobcat.  
8 In comparison to other hunters and  
9 outdoorsmen, trappers number  
10 comparatively few, and there is no  
11 reason to handicap their effectiveness  
12 of managing furbearer populations by not  
13 allowing them to have this tool.  
14 Our neighboring states do not  
15 restrict fur catchers nearly so much  
16 with this type of device. In  
17 Mississippi, any size is legal on  
18 private land, and just recently they've  
19 made a provision where you can only go  
20 up to seven-by-seven on public land. In  
21 Georgia, away from the water up to a  
22 nine-by-five by -- 9.5-by-9.5 Conibear  
23 trap is legal anywhere, and within ten



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1 foot of the water there are no  
2 restrictions.  
3 I in light of this, I'd like to  
4 propose that Alabama allow up to a  
5 7.5-by-7.5 -- again, that's inches --  
6 body-grip trap on land, allow up to  
7 seven-and-a-half inches by  
8 seven-and-a-half inches in jaw spread on  
9 land that's privately owned, and  
10 continue to enforce the five-by-five  
11 rule on public land. I feel like this  
12 will help cut out some of the issues.  
13 I know there will be some people  
14 that are concerned about dogs and that  
15 sort of thing, but I think if we stick  
16 with the five-by-five on public land,  
17 that will help to mitigate some of the  
18 encounters that dog hunters may have  
19 with that. And on private land, I mean,  
20 that's private land, so -- and, you  
21 know, if the trapper has the landowner's  
22 permission, you know, we should be able  
23 to help head some of those problems off

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1 because they'll know, you know, hey,  
2 there's other people who hunt here. You  
3 know, it's all about communication.  
4 But that's pretty much -- that's  
5 pretty much what I had to say. Any  
6 questions?  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
8 MR. PETERS: Thank you.  
9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mike -- is it Guillot? I'm  
10 sorry.  
11 MR. GUILLOT: That's all right. I don't  
12 suppose you're the only person who's  
13 ever had a problem with that name.  
14 Thank you, Commissioner Guy and  
15 board members. Thank you for the  
16 opportunity today. I have to -- I would  
17 like to speak with you about two words,  
18 two very small words. And I ask you to  
19 get your red pens out. And those two  
20 words are "no crossbows."  
21 You all are aware that to hunt  
22 turkeys in Alabama you can use a  
23 10-gauge shotgun, a 20-gauge shotgun,

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1 three-inch magnums. You can hunt them  
2 with a pistol, and you can hunt them  
3 with a compound bow. You may be  
4 wondering so why does anybody want to  
5 hunt with a crossbow.  
6 Well, some of us don't choose to  
7 hunt with a crossbow. That choice is  
8 made by our age or by our joints or our  
9 arthritis. And that's my case. In  
10 addition, some of us -- many of us are  
11 on bow-hunting-only leases, particularly  
12 when those leases are around urban  
13 areas. And so it seems very logical and  
14 reasonable to me that we can take those  
15 two words out of the regulation and add  
16 one word, and that is, as a legal means  
17 of harvesting a turkey using a  
18 crossbow. One small line with your red  
19 pen on the next change.  
20 The other option I would ask you to  
21 consider is if we are interested in  
22 expanding programs for youth, how do we  
23 do that. One of the ways to do it is to

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1 give them options. And one of those  
2 options is to allow them to go and  
3 hunt -- even more opportunities to hunt  
4 with a crossbow, one of those being  
5 turkey hunting.  
6 I first spoke on this six years ago  
7 in 2008 over at the Capitol, and  
8 basically we've kind of been in a  
9 stalemate ever since. A very small  
10 change. Many, many other states are  
11 already allowing this. And crossbows  
12 have been legal for almost every other  
13 game animal in the state, especially  
14 when you consider you can hunt them with  
15 firearms. And it's just the right thing  
16 to do. So, please, I urge you to make  
17 the change.  
18 I would offer one other thing in  
19 reference to the meeting, Commissioner  
20 Guy. It would be really nice if we  
21 could give you these questions online,  
22 on the Internet, on your Website even  
23 before we show up. And I appreciate

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1 it. I yield the rest of my time. Thank  
2 you for the opportunity.  
3 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
4 Jason Knight.  
5 MR. KNIGHT: How you doing? I'm Jason Knight  
6 from Wetumpka, Elmore County. The  
7 previous gentleman stole most of my  
8 thunder. But I'm with the Alabama  
9 Bowhunters Association, and we were  
10 formed in 1967. We've been coming to  
11 these CAB meetings for almost 50 years.  
12 One of the first topics that we brought  
13 up was trying to have a season just for  
14 archery equipment just for bow hunters.  
15 I sent -- in your package you should  
16 have a map of the state of Alabama  
17 showing crossbow use throughout the  
18 United States. Just to be brief, I'm  
19 going to read the letter I had in your  
20 packet.  
21 Today we are asking the CAB to  
22 legalize crossbow during turkey season.  
23 Alabama classifies crossbow as archery

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1 equipment when it became legal during  
2 the archery-only deer season. At one  
3 time Bowhunters of Alabama fought  
4 against crossbows in the archery-only  
5 deer season, and today we welcome  
6 crossbows to members of our organization  
7 and will advocate on their behalf.  
8 If you look at this map, you'll see  
9 that all these states that are in red,  
10 crossbows are illegal, but they also do  
11 not classify crossbows as archery  
12 equipment. The only three states in the  
13 United States where crossbows are  
14 classified as archery equipment but  
15 they're illegal during the turkey season  
16 is Alabama, Rhode Island, and New  
17 Hampshire. So I think it would be best  
18 if we didn't include ourselves with  
19 Rhode Island and New Hampshire as the  
20 only other states in the United States  
21 that are -- where crossbows are  
22 illegal. All of the southern states,  
23 pretty much every state below the

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1 Mason-Dixon line, you can use crossbows  
2 during the turkey season.  
3 So that's all I have. If anybody  
4 has any questions ...  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: Dr. Strickland.  
6 DR. STRICKLAND: I think I've probably been  
7 one of the members on the board that has  
8 consistently been against crossbow  
9 hunting for turkey. One of the reasons,  
10 if you look at, truly, the recovery rate  
11 for shooting a turkey with an arrow,  
12 it's less than 50 percent. And  
13 that's -- you know, I'm really against  
14 killing a turkey with a compound bow or  
15 any arrow. Because of all the game  
16 animals that I've hunted, recovering a  
17 turkey after you hit it with an arrow is  
18 incredibly difficult. You know, the  
19 kill area is very small, and it's -- you  
20 know, you're talking about a kill area  
21 of about like this.  
22 As far as crossbow hunting itself,  
23 you know, I am a, you know, firm

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1 supporter of it, but any weapon other  
2 than an arrow is not meant for turkeys.  
3 And that's -- I mean, it's -- you know,  
4 we have a -- you know, our turkey  
5 population is fairly sensitive. And,  
6 you know, again, I've hunted them with  
7 an arrow myself. I stopped. I think I  
8 mentioned it last year that, you know, I  
9 use a 12-gauge, three-and-a-half-inch  
10 Hevi-shot for turkeys because I've just  
11 had a hard time.  
12 I've hunted everything in North  
13 America. Turkeys are incredibly  
14 difficult with an arrow regardless of  
15 who you are, how good a shot you are.  
16 It's just -- you know, unless you use a  
17 guillotine, shoot them in the head, you  
18 know, but it's -- you know, it's a tough  
19 proposition.  
20 MR. KNIGHT: And I agree with your statement  
21 that it's very difficult to kill a  
22 turkey with a bow and arrow, whether it  
23 be a longbow or compound. I think a

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1 crossbow is actually more effective than  
2 the current longbow or crossbow or  
3 compound that we do that is already  
4 legal.  
5 DR. STRICKLAND: It's about shot placement  
6 though. That's it.  
7 MR. KNIGHT: And that's right. You're talking  
8 about an egg and --  
9 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I'm talking about  
10 putting it in the right place. And most  
11 of the turkeys that I see, you know,  
12 they're just not sitting there waiting  
13 for you to shoot them. You know, the  
14 gobblers are moving.  
15 MR. KNIGHT: Correct. Correct.  
16 DR. STRICKLAND: It's tough.  
17 MR. KNIGHT: Yeah. But I think that --  
18 DR. STRICKLAND: So it's not an  
19 anti-crossbow. For me it's just  
20 anti-arrow with a turkey. It's just  
21 tough.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
23 Any other questions?

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1 (No response.)  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
3 For some of us on the board up  
4 here ...  
5 For some of us on the board up here,  
6 it's difficult just to kill one with a  
7 shotgun. But, Mr. Hatley, I was not  
8 talking about you.  
9 MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.  
10 CHAIRMAN GUY: Doing the best imitation I  
11 can.  
12 Mr. William Oppenheimer.  
13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Mr. Commissioner, gentlemen,  
14 thank you for having me. My name is  
15 William Oppenheimer. I'm from Mobile  
16 County. I hunt in Monroe County. I  
17 love Alabama, and I've worked all my  
18 life to help protect wildlife resources  
19 and preserve hunting traditions for  
20 future generations.  
21 Less than a year ago I presented a  
22 petition of 300 concerned citizens and  
23 unanimous resolutions by four county

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1 commissions calling for the complete  
2 restoration of fall turkey season in the  
3 six counties where it exists. Now that  
4 we've experienced the first abbreviated  
5 fall season in those counties and aside  
6 from denying fall turkey hunters three  
7 weeks of hunting, what has been  
8 accomplished? I would submit nothing.  
9 Commissioner said repeatedly the  
10 game check would provide information,  
11 and it has. In the fall-winter season  
12 just completed over 19,000 deer were  
13 recorded as harvested. Five turkeys  
14 were recorded as harvested. Even  
15 recognizing that these are fractions of  
16 the actual harvest, it's clear, as DCNR  
17 members have said repeatedly before this  
18 board, that the effect of fall turkey  
19 hunting is a drop in the bucket. If the  
20 population is down, I would recommend  
21 that you first outlaw decoys or reduce  
22 the limit.  
23 One point made by board members last

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1 meeting is that these six counties ended  
2 up having more turkey-hunting days than  
3 other counties, but there are many other  
4 situations where certain counties get  
5 fewer or more days for one species or  
6 another. There are different dates and  
7 limits for doves, alligators. Some  
8 counties allow dogs for deer and some  
9 counties do not. Two counties have a  
10 15-day snow goose season and the rest do  
11 not. And there are different days for  
12 turkey season. Some counties have 47  
13 days. Some have 30 days. Parts of  
14 other counties just have five days. But  
15 the total limit is just five gobblers.  
16 And, again, if the population is really  
17 down, why don't we reduce the limit a  
18 little bit rather than eliminate fall  
19 season where it has traditionally been  
20 observed.  
21 Now we have a resolution in the  
22 Alabama House of Representatives, HJR  
23 212, adopted February 26, 2014, calling

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1 on you to please restore fall turkey  
2 season. We also have HB 534, an act  
3 pending in the House which requires you  
4 to restore fall turkey season. Time  
5 does not permit me to read these  
6 documents, but I've distributed to you a  
7 packet that has them in there.  
8 Therefore, I respectfully call on  
9 you on behalf of the petition signers  
10 and reiterate what the county  
11 commissioners have requested explicitly  
12 and passively and in keeping with the  
13 legislature's expressed opinion to  
14 restore fall turkey season back to the  
15 dates we have enjoyed for over 50  
16 years. Thank you.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: Charles Borden.  
18 Thank you, sir. Anybody have  
19 questions for Mr. Oppenheimer?  
20 (No response.)  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you.  
23 MR. BORDEN: Good morning. I'm Dr. Charles

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1 Borden. I live up in the Bankhead  
2 National Forest in Lawrence County.  
3 Three issues I wanted to address with  
4 you today.  
5 I came before this board before --  
6 maybe not the same composition -- and  
7 advocated for a deer-restocking program  
8 up there. We got that initiated. I  
9 came and asked and we got two zones, a  
10 Zone A and Zone B, established in the  
11 wildlife management area.  
12 We have two or three different  
13 issues altogether I wanted to talk to  
14 you about today. One is I'm an archer  
15 and all I -- I'm die-hard and all I do  
16 during the entire deer season is bow  
17 hunt. When gun season opens in the  
18 management area up there, when it opens  
19 in Zone A, Zone B is closed during that  
20 time for bow hunting. And as you know,  
21 bow hunters like to hunt in a relatively  
22 undisturbed area, and so it puts me in a  
23 situation where I'm forced -- if I'm

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1 going to hunt on the management area, I  
2 have to go on the days of the gun deer  
3 hunt and go hunt on the side with all  
4 the gun hunters. And that's just not  
5 the way I like to hunt.  
6 So I'm requesting that you change  
7 that so that bow hunters will have the  
8 season where they can hunt on the  
9 opposite side of the management area  
10 when all the gun hunters are on the  
11 other side. When Zone A is open to gun  
12 hunting, as it is now, Zone B is closed  
13 to bow hunting, and I would like to have  
14 that changed. And that's noted on the  
15 form there.  
16 The other thing is, on Zone B we  
17 have a restricted antler harvest -- buck  
18 harvest so that it has to be four points  
19 on one side. I came down and requested  
20 that with the Conservation Department,  
21 and that was implemented. Our district  
22 biologist at the time assured me that if  
23 it were successful, that after a few

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1 years, if hunters were okay with it and  
2 were successful, then they would also  
3 institute a four-point on the opposite  
4 side also.  
5 So the present biologist up there  
6 indicates that the quality of the  
7 antler -- buck harvest on the side where  
8 the restriction has been in place for a  
9 few years has improved, and I'm  
10 requesting that we implement that same  
11 restriction on Zone A that's in effect  
12 and has been in effect now for a few  
13 years in Zone B.  
14 The second thing is that this past  
15 year -- or the third thing. This past  
16 year the wildlife management area was  
17 open on the opposite side. Again, we've  
18 got two zones, A and B. When the gun  
19 deer season was open on Zone A, Zone B  
20 became open to small game hunting even  
21 though bow hunting was not allowed.  
22 They've had real enforcement issues  
23 up there this past season. We have a

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1 few small game hunters that are totally  
2 legitimate, and I totally support that.  
3 But we had --  
4 MS. JONES: Time.  
5 MR. BORDEN: -- one arrest for people who were  
6 carrying .22 rifles and .30-06 guns.  
7 They were deer hunting and pretending to  
8 be small game hunting. We have 90,000  
9 acres outside of the wildlife management  
10 area that is available for small game  
11 hunting as well as deer hunting with  
12 state season. Thank you very much.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
14 Dr. Strickland.  
15 Hold on, sir. I think  
16 Dr. Strickland has a question.  
17 DR. STRICKLAND: And, actually, I would like  
18 to address our conservation officers.  
19 Is there a reason that the archery  
20 season is closed in Zone B? Is there a  
21 biological reason?  
22 (Brief interruption by the court  
23 reporter.)

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: Hold on. Hold on. I'm sorry.  
2 The court reporter said you have to  
3 stand up, please.  
4 MR. SYKES: We're looking at that right now.  
5 Give us just a little bit. I agree with  
6 you.  
7 DR. STRICKLAND: Okay, Chuck.  
8 MR. BORDEN: Any other questions?  
9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
10 MR. BORDEN: Thank you very much.  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: Burk Williams.  
12 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name is Burk  
13 Williams. I'm from Chatom. That's in  
14 Washington County. I have addressed  
15 some of my issues with Chuck and Mr. Dan  
16 Moultrie.  
17 I am the fourth-generation owner of  
18 property in Washington County, and my  
19 grandfather, my father, and now I'm  
20 trying to manage game. It seems like  
21 the harder that -- the more I spend, the  
22 more lax on hunting regulations and  
23 seasons get longer. I am yet to find a

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1 landowner in Washington County that has  
2 agreed with February deer hunting.  
3 I'm here today on behalf of my  
4 children and my grandchildren. I would  
5 like to see some kind of accountability  
6 for the number of deer or bucks that are  
7 harvested and a size limit. I've hunted  
8 from Alabama to Alaska, and everywhere  
9 that I have been I had to have a tag.  
10 And when I killed a deer or whatever I  
11 killed, turkey, I had to tag it. And  
12 you don't have to do that here. And  
13 there are many, many people, especially  
14 in my area, that does not tag or report  
15 any game. That is my concern, and I  
16 would appreciate it if you would look  
17 into it and have some kind of  
18 accountability for bag limit and size  
19 limit.  
20 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
21 I just would note that we did have  
22 game check ready to institute to address  
23 those concerns and we also have a

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1 harvest record. So we'll continue to  
2 work on that as we're allowed to do so.  
3 Ron Nummy.  
4 MR. NUMMY: I'm Ron Nummy. I'm a home builder  
5 in Prattville, Alabama. And our family,  
6 we own about 930 acres in Autauga  
7 County. We lease about 900 acres next  
8 to us.  
9 And I could be raising a flag -- red  
10 flag prematurely, but this past deer  
11 season our population -- I've been  
12 seeing it decrease fractionally for the  
13 past four years. But this year, with  
14 the new corn-baiting situation -- and I  
15 say that because I feel like that's what  
16 it is.  
17 We had a guy next to us that had  
18 90 acres next to our 1800 acres. He  
19 shot more deer than we saw. I'm -- we  
20 can go and set on some of our fields for  
21 a week and not see a deer. And, like I  
22 say, this could be just an anomaly that  
23 just happened, could be just this year

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1 by itself. But I feel like this corn  
2 deal is -- it could domino into  
3 something bigger.  
4 I've got some landowners next to --  
5 Chuck Sykes, he's -- he's familiar with  
6 one of them. He says he's through  
7 planting for deer. He's been planting  
8 15 years, summer crops, winter crops,  
9 trying to nutritionally help the deer  
10 herd like I do. I mean, we spend  
11 thousands of dollars every year trying  
12 to help the deer. And if we resort to  
13 just pouring it out on the ground, I'm  
14 afraid we're turning these deer into  
15 welfare deer. I mean, they just --  
16 they'd rather go over there and just eat  
17 it out of a pile.  
18 Because I've got a ten-acre field  
19 that I hunted this year. Set up there  
20 for three days straight. The corn today  
21 is still hanging on the stalk. They  
22 have started coming back for the past  
23 couple of weeks because everybody around

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1 them quit feeding them. They're  
2 gradually coming back a little bit.  
3 But, like I say, I could be raising  
4 a flag prematurely. But I'm just  
5 afraid, like my adjoining landowner, if  
6 he quits planting, I quit planting and  
7 it dominos, you know, what's that going  
8 to do to the nutrition of our deer. I'm  
9 just concerned about it.  
10 And I've got a letter here, and  
11 Ms. Jones, she's going to scan it and  
12 get it to you. Thank you.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: We have a question.  
14 MR. SYKES: Since my name was brought up,  
15 what's the neighboring landowner?  
16 MR. NUMMY: It's Leon McCord.  
17 MR. SYKES: Okay. Thank you.  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: David Patterson.  
19 MR. PATTERSON: Commissioner, committee  
20 members, thank you. It may not be an  
21 appropriate time for mine, but I wanted  
22 to speak to supplemental feeding and  
23 attractants as well, but mine is in

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1 favor of.  
2 I wanted to ask that you consider  
3 giving another tool to small private  
4 landowners who want to better manage the  
5 herds in the areas, especially in  
6 areas -- I'm sorry. I live in McCalla,  
7 Alabama. I hunt in Crenshaw County.  
8 And I tried to set up a small quail  
9 habitat in Jackson County where I grew  
10 up. But the swamp and cutover is so  
11 thick in the Crenshaw County part that  
12 you can't afford the equipment to get it  
13 open enough to hunt.  
14 I have nieces and nephews coming up  
15 that I'd like to be able to take them to  
16 the shooting house, help them to observe  
17 deer and learn more about management and  
18 the type of deer that need to be taken  
19 out. The big concern I have is in that  
20 area we are still having spotted fawns  
21 in December. The majority of bucks that  
22 I have been seeing have been malformed  
23 racks with four or five points on one

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1 side, legged spike or a four-point on  
2 the other side, and that seems to be  
3 dominating the area. And we would like  
4 to have a better opportunity to see  
5 those deer and to get them out of the  
6 swampy area.  
7 You know, my preference would be  
8 landowner permits so that it can be  
9 controlled and data collected to support  
10 the function, but to make it more  
11 available for the small private  
12 landowners to manage the herds and try  
13 to get rid of some of the genetics that  
14 are there.  
15 Occasionally we see a nice rack or a  
16 typical-rack buck, but for the most part  
17 we're seeing those one-sided racks,  
18 seeing three-year-old 150-pound spikes.  
19 But they go nocturnal very quickly.  
20 We're not seeing them in the  
21 greenfields. And we, too, put a lot of  
22 money into greenfields and try to  
23 provide year-around nutrition for the

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1 animals.

2 Supplemental feeding has helped make

3 the animals healthier, but they've

4 developed -- they're much smarter

5 sometimes than we give them credit for.

6 They develop a beeline from one -- from

7 a bedding area to a feeder, and as I

8 read the regulations, it's illegal to

9 put a stand on that trail.

10 So those kinds of things have made

11 the deer healthier, but the genetics are

12 still there. And I think small

13 landowners need an opportunity to better

14 manage their herds if they choose to.

15 It's not -- shouldn't be a forced thing,

16 but the opportunity should be there if a

17 private landowner wants to manage a herd

18 and to teach kids more about what type

19 of deer to take out. There should be an

20 opportunity to the small landowners of

21 Alabama. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

23 Don Abercrombie.

90

1 MR. ABERCROMBIE: I'm Don Abercrombie. I'm

2 from Barbour County. You had received

3 this letter here that is basically from

4 the Barbour County mayors that are

5 asking for a 15-day extension into

6 February versus the ten days. And what

7 we -- what I want to kind of get across

8 to you today is why is that extra five

9 days important.

10 We appreciate the boundaries and the

11 whole nine yards of what y'all -- what

12 you've done with it and we agree with

13 that. So the five extra days -- you

14 know, we grew up -- you know, I grew up

15 on a farm. We have a lot of landowners

16 down there that's been managing deer for

17 the last 30 years. And what you see is

18 that five extra days and an extra

19 weekend in February, it would be

20 instrumental in improving the demand for

21 deer hunting and proper deer-herd

22 management. I want to tell you how both

23 of these complement one another.

91

1 One, improving the deer herd in a

2 lot of cases means just letting the deer

3 walk another year, having more mature

4 three-and-a-half-year-old bucks,

5 creating demand for that product and

6 also allowing the hunters to hunt that

7 rut. And it's more or less just the

8 timing of the season.

9 We're more like -- we're more

10 like -- I think it's Commissioner Guy's

11 property over in Lowndes where 75

12 percent of our deer probably start

13 rutting the last three or four days of

14 January. So we fit into that category

15 in most of Barbour County.

16 But what is important is the five

17 days. I was fortunate enough through

18 the years to do -- I was heavily

19 involved in the passage of the Boll

20 Weevil Eradication Program in 1985.

21 Tommy Paulk with Alabama Farmers Coop

22 was my spray pilot during that time.

23 Also, I wrote an off-peak power rate for

92

1 the catfish industry in '97. And the

2 best way to describe the five extra days

3 is that if we had written the rate -- if

4 I wrote the rate that Alabama Power

5 passed and it hadn't been to where you

6 saw the benefit of the total package,

7 then you wouldn't have had the result

8 that it's had.

9 So as far as the deer hunting and

10 the season is concerned, you know, this

11 extra five days better aligns the

12 timing. Plus, it allows these deer

13 hunters to be able -- and the hunting

14 camps to have a hundred-percent

15 capacity. And that would, in turn, be

16 able to allow those hunting camps to

17 enforce their rules or the landowners to

18 be able to go in and say, okay, we've

19 got to have proper deer-herd

20 management.

21 So all of this works together in a

22 way that it's hard to understand. But

23 I've analyzed this. Y'all have seen

93

1 me -- this is the second time now.  
2 Three years ago -- or four years ago we  
3 started with this. And the whole point  
4 is, is this is from not only the mayors  
5 of Barbour County, but I will say all  
6 the way across the state to where you  
7 got to look at this as a starting  
8 point. You give ten days. You give 15  
9 days. It doesn't matter. What you got  
10 to look at now is where does the vision  
11 come for you to be able to take this and  
12 not only see how we can make the most  
13 out of it from a deer  
14 population/deer-herd management but,  
15 also, how do we take all these other  
16 interests here --  
17 MS. JONES: Time.  
18 MR. ABERCROMBIE: -- and do the most for all  
19 of it. But we want to thank --  
20 CHAIRMAN GUY: Go ahead and finish up.  
21 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Well, the one thing -- the  
22 other thing I wanted to thank y'all  
23 for -- I would like to encourage

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1 everybody to go to the Alabama Seafood  
2 Summit, the best meeting I've ever been  
3 to last year that Gunter and John  
4 McMillan put on. They're having it  
5 again. But Chris Blankenship, the whole  
6 nine yards. So, anyway, we appreciate  
7 that.  
8 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
9 MR. ABERCROMBIE: And we appreciate the  
10 season. So, you know, we're happy with  
11 that.  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: We're working hard. We're  
13 working hard.  
14 Andrew Marshall. Mr. Marshall.  
15 MR. MARSHALL: Good morning. I'm Andy  
16 Marshall. I live and hunt in Henry  
17 County, Alabama, the northern part of  
18 the county. And I'm here to speak in  
19 favor of extending the season into  
20 February for Henry County.  
21 I noticed in the presentation it  
22 looks like the recommendation is for a  
23 part of Henry County. And I manage 400

95

1 acres that I lease. I have managed that  
2 property for five years. This year we  
3 had 135 hunts on the property, and we  
4 did not experience any rutting activity  
5 until the last six days of the season.  
6 Unfortunately, two of those days we  
7 didn't get to hunt because we had ice  
8 everywhere.  
9 But I appreciate the changes that  
10 have been made, and I look forward to  
11 the recommendation being approved that  
12 we saw here today. Thank you.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you. And I think you  
14 heard Mr. Sykes say we're going to  
15 continue to look hard at those other  
16 areas along the Georgia border.  
17 Yes, Mr. Sykes.  
18 MR. SYKES: If you could please get in touch  
19 with me after the meeting where I can  
20 find out exactly where your property is  
21 in Henry County. That may be an area  
22 that Mr. Gray is wanting to look at.  
23 MR. MARSHALL: Will do.

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: Tyler -- is it Sansing? Tyler  
2 Sansing.  
3 Okay. Thank you, sir.  
4 MR. SANSING: I'm Tyler Sansing, a landowner  
5 in Hale County and also a member of  
6 C & W Hunting Club in Greene County, a  
7 dog-hunting club. A lot of my concerns  
8 have been addressed at the beginning of  
9 this meeting, so I'll try to keep it  
10 short.  
11 You know, my biggest concern is a  
12 loss of the ten days in the areas where  
13 they want the February extension. I  
14 like what you're doing about adding ten  
15 days back to the dog season. I hope you  
16 follow through with that. That will be  
17 a good thing. It still doesn't address  
18 the problem with the small game season.  
19 I would like to also see that pushed  
20 forward by the same amount, too, on into  
21 March. I like what you said about  
22 limiting the does. I'm not sure that's  
23 enough, but I believe that's a good



97

1 start.

2 So I guess that's all I've got to

3 say. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

5 D.R. Stallworth.

6 MR. STALLWORTH: Good morning, gentlemen. I

7 guess I'm here mostly in concern of the

8 latter discussion on the extension of

9 the season, also, in combination with

10 the subsidization of the feed for the

11 deer herd.

12 As a private landowner, I can't

13 agree with that because I've watched

14 extensions of the season previously, and

15 I haven't seen any benefit from

16 extending the season concerning the

17 herd. It seemed like it depleted the

18 herd. And I'll cut my time short

19 because most of it is shadowed. Thank

20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

22 Mitchell Foster.

23 MR. FOSTER: A couple of us are talking about

98

1 the same thing. I'm going to let him

2 talk about it.

3 CHAIRMAN GUY: And who is that?

4 MR. MORRIS: John Morris.

5 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay, Mr. Morris. You can come

6 on up. Thank you, sir.

7 Thank you for yielding your time,

8 sir.

9 MR. MORRIS: I want to thank the board for

10 allowing us to speak before you today.

11 My name is John Morris. I'm from Pell

12 City, Alabama, but hunt in Crenshaw

13 County.

14 Dr. Hartzog, Larry Hornsby wanted me

15 to extend my -- his best regards to

16 you.

17 One of the things that we're

18 concerned about in our little group that

19 hunt here in Crenshaw are the things and

20 motivations that's driving the board's

21 opinion about tagging and -- or possibly

22 tagging and tags and the health

23 situation that -- of calling in and what

99

1 have you. It looks like it's shifting

2 the onus more and more over to the

3 hunter again and again, and it seems

4 like, based on discussions that we've

5 had in our group, that there's easier,

6 better, more accurate and quicker ways

7 to handle that by polling processors or

8 whatever. There are a lot of ways.

9 We'll be glad to sit down with any

10 member of the board and talk with them

11 about our opinion to get that census

12 taken care of.

13 But aside from very few individuals,

14 in my opinion the hunters in Alabama do

15 a very good job of maintaining,

16 protecting, conserving the Alabama deer

17 herd. So I would like to see less and

18 less onus put on the hunter as far as

19 reporting that information to the

20 Department of Conservation. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

22 Randy Thompson.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Gentlemen, I'm Randy Thompson

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1 from Cherokee, Alabama. That's in west

2 Colbert County. I'm a property owner

3 there where my family and friends and

4 myself hunt. And I'm here today to

5 address one of your favorite topics and

6 that's dog hunting.

7 And we're having a problem with that

8 still, as are some of our -- my

9 neighboring property owners, being able

10 to hunt without being disturbed with our

11 family and friends. And this past year

12 I personally didn't -- because of some

13 family issues didn't get to hunt as much

14 as I usually do, but the times that we

15 did hunt, I'm saying 75 percent of the

16 times we were there we had dogs running

17 around our greenfields or on our

18 property lines. And we spoke a little

19 bit about this last year, and we have

20 some other property owners here today.

21 But, you know, we have -- have our

22 kids and our grandkids and our family

23 members sometimes come from out of

101

1 town. They don't get to hunt but two or  
2 three times a year. We spend money on  
3 greenfields and spend money on shooting  
4 houses, and then the one time or two  
5 that they get to hunt is spoiled by dogs  
6 coming through your greenfields or down  
7 your property line right at the prime  
8 time in the afternoon. And we're just  
9 asking you to help us to do something,  
10 you know, about that.

11 And, you know, some of these hunting  
12 club members are our friends, and  
13 they're not intentionally trying to  
14 disturb us or cause problems. But when  
15 you don't have any more property than  
16 some of them have to run dogs on,  
17 there's no way you can turn dogs loose  
18 without them getting on top. And it  
19 seems like no matter where they turn the  
20 dogs loose, they end up on our property  
21 or some of my neighboring landowners'  
22 properties. And, you know, it's just  
23 very frustrating. And we found out

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1 during this last year that some more  
2 landowners that are our friends and  
3 neighbors are having the same problem  
4 and we were not even aware of it. And  
5 we just ask that you might help us do  
6 something about this problem.

7 And had a friend of mine that was  
8 going to ride down with me today who is  
9 a landowner. He is sick with the flu.  
10 And, anyway, he -- he actually asked me  
11 to share this brief statement concerning  
12 the same thing with you, if I could.

13 Sorry I can't make it. I've got the  
14 crud that's going around and feel like  
15 the crud. I didn't have as much problem  
16 as you guys did this year, but still the  
17 dogs were there. Three different  
18 Saturdays I was on a stand and someone  
19 came up to the edge of my property and  
20 dumped their dogs out. It was on  
21 management area land that they dumped  
22 them on, and I could never catch up with  
23 them. I caught a dog one time that I

103

1 think was one of the ones they dumped  
2 out, and it had a Blanton Hill collar on  
3 it. I can't prove it was them, but  
4 every time I do catch dogs over the past  
5 three or four years it's been from the  
6 Blanton Hill Hunting Club and never from  
7 the Hog Hollow Hunting Club.

8 And this is Rod Wallace. I have his  
9 phone number and address if any of you  
10 would like to talk with him. He may --

11 MS. JONES: Time.

12 MR. THOMPSON: -- have written already to some  
13 of our committee members. I'm not  
14 sure.

15 But thank you very much. Any help  
16 you could be with this problem, we would  
17 appreciate it.

18 MR. JONES: Commissioner?

19 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes, Mr. Jones.

20 MR. JONES: Mr. Thompson, where in Colbert  
21 County are you located?

22 MR. THOMPSON: It's in the -- on the west end  
23 of Colbert County north of Cherokee.

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1 MR. JONES: North of Cherokee. Okay. Thank  
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN GUY: Terry Sikes.

4 MR. SIKES: Hello. My name is Terry Sikes.  
5 I'm from Silas, Alabama, which is in  
6 Choctaw County. I'm a member of Hebron  
7 Hunting Club in Choctaw County. I also  
8 hunt with Bear Head Hunting Club in  
9 Choctaw County and Turkey Creek Hunting  
10 Club in Washington County. I am  
11 president of the Choctaw County Chapter  
12 of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association.  
13 And I have mailed each one of you within  
14 the last couple of weeks a petition to  
15 repeal the dog-hunting permit system  
16 rule for Choctaw County.

17 First off, I want to thank you for  
18 giving the ten days of dog season back.  
19 Most of the hunters in our area were in  
20 favor of the February hunting, but they  
21 did not like losing the ten days of dog  
22 season.

23 Several years ago portions of

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1 Choctaw County were placed under the  
2 dog-hunting permit system because of  
3 complaints from an individual. Several  
4 hunting clubs were affected by the  
5 actions of one group of hunters.  
6 Several of us that were affected by the  
7 permit system were assured that after a  
8 couple of years with no complaints  
9 against us that the dog-hunting permit  
10 restriction would be lifted. We done a  
11 good job of obeying the conditions of  
12 the permit system, and we had no  
13 complaints against us. We would like  
14 the dog-hunting permit system lifted off  
15 of this area of Choctaw County.  
16 We'd also like to thank you for not  
17 banning dog hunting completely out of  
18 Choctaw County and allowing us to prove  
19 to you that we can and will hunt within  
20 the rules and laws set forth for us.  
21 Thank you.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
23 Mike Worsham. Mike Worsham from

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1 Colbert.  
2 MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. Our  
3 property is in Colbert County north of  
4 Cherokee. My dad and I own 271 acres  
5 that adjoin Randy's property, and we've  
6 had trouble with the same dog-hunting  
7 club to the north of us.  
8 We spend a lot of time and money  
9 creating food plots, orchards, shooting  
10 houses to hunt, and we rarely have a  
11 hunt that's not disturbed by the dog  
12 hunting. We can even hear the dog --  
13 hear the four-wheelers fire up in the  
14 morning when they start and get very  
15 close to the property lines. We can  
16 hear conversations when they're turning  
17 the dogs loose sometimes when we're on a  
18 stand.  
19 Here's an example of -- last year I  
20 took a little bit better records than  
21 Randy, and I got to hunt a little bit  
22 more last year.  
23 On the 24th we had a dog on the

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1 north side of our property milling  
2 around one of the shooting houses. And  
3 then we had a couple of days we thought  
4 things were getting better, but then we  
5 realized it was a strong north wind and  
6 the property was to the north of us and  
7 the dogs were going north.  
8 It took back up on the 29th. Had  
9 dogs on the north end of the property at  
10 8:50. 9:25 dogs on the south end. At  
11 9:40 dogs running to backtrack across  
12 the south end.  
13 On the 14th -- didn't hunt any more  
14 till the 14th. At 0900 we had dogs on  
15 the center of the property.  
16 On the 23rd we had three beagles,  
17 one hound in the middle of the property  
18 at 8:52. At 9:02 we had a hound through  
19 the middle of the south end of the  
20 property. At 9:38 another hound came  
21 through the middle of the south end.  
22 On the 28th, 7:54, dogs on the north  
23 end. 8:57 another pack on the north

108

1 end. One of those dogs stopped by one  
2 of the stands and treed the hunter in  
3 the stand. And then we had a -- that  
4 afternoon at 2:26 we had dogs in  
5 Sullivan Hollow.  
6 On the 29th at 8 a.m. we had dogs on  
7 the middle of the property. At 8:17  
8 another pack came through the middle.  
9 At 8:20 another pack came through on the  
10 same track. At 8:24 more dogs. 8:28  
11 the same dogs crossed the middle of the  
12 property. 8:44 more dogs on the  
13 center.  
14 On the 10th at 5 p.m., sitting in  
15 the shooting house, a dog just came  
16 walking out in the middle of the  
17 greenfield.  
18 On the 12th at 9:22 a dog came  
19 through the south end. About five  
20 minutes later another dog came through  
21 on the same track. Have a video of that  
22 dog running. It was a really nice  
23 race. At 9:49 we had more dogs on the

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1 north-central part of the property.  
2 Last year I had written letters to  
3 my members on the board and the DCNR and  
4 the Wildlife Commission. We've called  
5 the sheriff and reported on five -- on  
6 four separate occasions that we've had  
7 these disturbances. And we don't ask  
8 that you outlaw or eliminate dog  
9 hunting. We just feel like these folks  
10 have the responsibility for controlling  
11 their dogs so that we can enjoy our  
12 hunts the same way that we would like  
13 to, undisturbed.  
14 There's another property owner that  
15 Randy talked about, Rod Wallace.  
16 There's another property owner, Carnell  
17 Goodlow, that was going to be with us  
18 today, but he had to work. He hunts 250  
19 acres in that area. He has the same  
20 disturbances, probably not as many as we  
21 have because our property is the one  
22 right adjacent to the property.  
23 We just ask that you would consider

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1 putting them on a permit system or some  
2 sort of restriction so that we can get  
3 some relief.  
4 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
5 At this time we have a large group  
6 that are speaking in support of dog deer  
7 hunting and the association, and Mr. Don  
8 Knight and his group have helped me out  
9 with our ten-limit rule.  
10 So, Don, would you come first. Don  
11 Knight. Appreciate you doing that.  
12 Thank you, everybody, for cooperating in  
13 that regard.  
14 MR. KNIGHT: I'm Don Knight. I'm the state  
15 president of the Alabama Dog Hunters  
16 Association, and I'd like to take just a  
17 second for the dog hunters and let them  
18 know that I am the one that had them cut  
19 it back. And so if you don't get to  
20 speak today, at the first of the next  
21 meeting or the next meeting you're  
22 there, we'll put you at the top of the  
23 list. It was just we had 20-something

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1 people to speak. I try to give  
2 everybody as much representation as I  
3 can. If you want to get mad at  
4 somebody, come after me.  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: No. Don't get mad at Don.  
6 It's just one of our rules.  
7 But, Don, why don't you have  
8 everybody stand that is here in favor.  
9 That would be good.  
10 MR. KNIGHT: Dog hunters stand, please.  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
12 MR. KNIGHT: That's a real nice group.  
13 I want to first off thank the --  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: And sorry for the  
15 accommodations, by the way, Don. Just  
16 did the best we could.  
17 MR. KNIGHT: That's fine. We're used to being  
18 out in the woods. We'll take it any way  
19 we can get it.  
20 But I want to thank the board and  
21 Commissioner and Mr. Sykes and all for  
22 working and getting our ten days back,  
23 and we just appreciate it so much. We

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1 just enjoy our hunting the way we like  
2 to hunt.  
3 And I also want to tell you that the  
4 problems that you heard here already and  
5 maybe some to come a little later, I am  
6 very well aware of them. I have been  
7 involved with them. And Mr. Hatley is  
8 mad at me, but I've been involved with  
9 them. And we will get in touch with  
10 you. We -- call me. We will talk about  
11 them. I have -- I've been to meetings.  
12 We've done a lot of work on these  
13 problems. So if you'll let me know,  
14 we'll talk about it.  
15 We've got enough people talking  
16 about other things. What I want to  
17 bring to your attention today is the  
18 partnership of the Alabama Dog Hunters  
19 Association and the Seasons of Hope.  
20 The Seasons of Hope is an organization  
21 that has handicapped children and  
22 terminally-ill children that want to  
23 hunt, want to fish. They want to do

113

1 these things.

2 We had two hunts with them this year

3 on dog hunts. I've never seen kids

4 enjoy anything so much in all my life.

5 We had one little man that he had a bone

6 disease, breaks his bones very easy. He

7 was there and he got to kill a spike.

8 It wasn't like it was his first deer.

9 He had had some pretty good deer killed

10 on different lands. Never heard a kid

11 get more excited. He got on that radio,

12 and I'm going to tell you what, it

13 brought tears to my eyes just knowing

14 how excited this kid was. Because

15 everything happened so quick. His

16 adrenaline was flowing. We had a couple

17 of great hunts with them.

18 We had another -- on the second hunt

19 we had a young man that has a brain

20 tumor, and he went out on the stand with

21 his mother and daddy. And I was one

22 stand down from him with a young lady

23 that has also a tumor. And I'm just

114

1 thinking to myself, oh, please let him

2 see a deer. Well, we heard some shots

3 right before we turned the dogs loose.

4 And when they picked us all up, we went

5 up there, and they had a real fine

6 eight-point. And I've never seen a

7 little kid so excited.

8 This is a great organization for us

9 to work with. The dog hunting, they

10 love it. They enjoy it. There will be

11 somebody at the next meeting to let

12 you -- to speak for them.

13 But if people would go to one of

14 these hunts and see these kids, the

15 hardships they have and see what we got,

16 you would probably hear a whole lot less

17 people fussing about a dog coming across

18 their property. You would also hear a

19 lot less dog hunters having to turn

20 their dogs loose on somebody's

21 property.

22 What I'm saying is, go to these

23 hunts and look at who's really got a

115

1 problem, and you won't have a problem.

2 You will be thankful for what we've got

3 going on in the state of Alabama. You

4 will be thankful to be able to still

5 hunt. You will be thankful --

6 MS. JONES: Time.

7 MR. KNIGHT: -- to be able to turn your dogs

8 loose. So I just wanted to let you know

9 that.

10 And appreciate Mr. Hartzog. He's

11 going to let us use his lake. We're

12 going to have them a fishing trip.

13 We're also lining up some still-hunting

14 trips for them. We're not just dog

15 hunting. These kids deserve better than

16 what they've got, and we've got so much

17 it's pitiful. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.

19 Mr. Hartzog.

20 MR. HARTZOG: Yes. I'd just like to thank Don

21 because on occasions when I get calls

22 concerning problems with dog hunters, I

23 can always call Mr. Don and tell him

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1 I've got a problem, and he within a day

2 or two is calling me back telling me

3 that he's already addressing the issues,

4 contacting the landowners, contacting

5 the club that we're having problems with

6 and trying to get it resolved.

7 Last year, if you remember, we put

8 Elmore on a permit system. And I've had

9 half a dozen calls from Elmore citizens

10 saying how well it works. And so the

11 permit system works. And I want to

12 thank Don for the work he does in trying

13 to -- when we do have a problem, trying

14 to get it resolved.

15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

16 Dwayne Allen.

17 MR. ALLEN: Good morning, men. I'm Dwayne

18 Allen. I'm the president of the Baldwin

19 County Chapter of the Alabama Dog

20 Hunters Association. And I'm going to

21 keep it real short because Mr. Don, he

22 talked about a lot of things I want to

23 talk about.

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1 I've spoken to a few of you about  
2 the issues we have in Baldwin County,  
3 and I will continue to speak to you.  
4 But I want to thank you for the proposal  
5 of giving us our ten days back. It  
6 means a lot to us.  
7 We did real good, few complaints out  
8 of Baldwin County, but we had a few  
9 hiccups. Like I say, a few of you are  
10 aware of them, and I will be talking to  
11 you some more in depth about these  
12 problems. But thank y'all very much for  
13 the job you do and continue the good  
14 work. Thank you.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
16 Jim Dye.  
17 MR. DYE: Hello. My name is Jim Dye. I hunt  
18 in Greene County with C & W Hunting  
19 Club.  
20 I want to thank the board for the  
21 ten days y'all gave back for the  
22 extension. I think that's great. I  
23 appreciate y'all listening to everybody

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1 and taking that into consideration and  
2 being fair with everything. I give you  
3 a hard enough time, so I want to  
4 congratulate you too.  
5 Like I say, we hunt in Greene  
6 County. I think we had a good year this  
7 year, uneventful, no problems that I'm  
8 aware of. Just want to keep that  
9 going. We want to keep working with  
10 everybody to keep dog hunting alive and  
11 going.  
12 I do want to say about the extension  
13 for small game hunters, as a dog hunter,  
14 we do want to look and keep some  
15 fairness there to be able to still do  
16 the small game hunting and rabbit  
17 hunting with the dogs. Thank you.  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
19 Jack Hall. Jack Hall.  
20 MR. HALL: My name is Jack Hall. I'm from Bay  
21 Minette, and that's in Baldwin County.  
22 I'm a retired schoolteacher with 35  
23 years' experience. I just recently

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1 moved back to my hometown of Bay Minette  
2 where I got involved with hunting.  
3 My dad, G.P. Hall, and my uncles,  
4 Tommy Hall and Gene Hall, introduced me  
5 to dog hunting many, many years ago  
6 hunting in the Tensaw Delta, and it's  
7 something I've cherished all my life.  
8 Even when I would come home during the  
9 Christmas holidays, I would go hunting  
10 with my dad after I graduated from  
11 college, and we would go to a place  
12 called Halls Fork Hunting Club, which is  
13 located in the Phillippsville community  
14 in Baldwin County. That's where I was  
15 first introduced to this hunting club.  
16 I learned a lot about Halls Fork  
17 Hunting Club before I joined it several  
18 years before I retired, and I also  
19 learned a lot about the community too.  
20 There are some problems there. But the  
21 main thing I learned about the hunting  
22 club was it's not just a dog-hunting  
23 club. We have people that hunt

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1 squirrels only. We have people that are  
2 rabbit hunters, dove hunters, turkey  
3 hunters, stalk hunters, bow hunters and,  
4 of course, dog hunters also.  
5 One thing I liked about this  
6 particular club is the older members  
7 always nurtured the younger members.  
8 And from there -- my stalk-hunting  
9 experience at Halls Fork before was to  
10 simply climb in a shooting house over a  
11 green patch and simply shoot the deer  
12 whenever it comes out to eat. At Halls  
13 Fork I've learned to not only scout, but  
14 read signs, get my climber, climb the  
15 tree, and kill the deer simply on his  
16 terms, not on a human term. So I enjoy  
17 that very much.  
18 It's also a type of hunting club  
19 that is more than just a hunting club.  
20 It's more of a brotherhood with a bond  
21 that's very unique for this day and  
22 time. Myself, as well as others, work  
23 together. I'll give you a few

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1 examples.

2 A few years ago one of the campers

3 blew up and four members of one family

4 was burned. We helped them with food.

5 We helped them with transportation to

6 the hospital. We helped them with

7 money. We helped them with moral and

8 spiritual support. Even our own

9 president had his house burn down and

10 again the members came forward and

11 helped him with his recovery.

12 We're planning many things in the

13 Phillipsville community to try and bring

14 that community back together again.

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. HALL: We're planning things such as a

17 community cleanup, trail rides,

18 community fish fries, and many other

19 things.

20 One thing is our hunting club is

21 family-oriented. We have

22 husband-and-wife hunters. We have

23 father-son hunters. We have

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1 father-daughter hunters. We have whole

2 families that hunt together. And we

3 even have one family that represents

4 four generations in this one hunting

5 club. I believe Halls Fork is a great

6 place to hunt as well as fellowship, and

7 to me fellowship is just more powerful

8 than the hunt. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.

10 Mike Holston.

11 MR. HOLSTON: I was one of them that they

12 pulled.

13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, he had you down, but

14 that's -- I mean --

15 MR. HOLSTON: I won't be speaking. That's

16 okay.

17 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. How about Lonnie

18 Miller?

19 Mr. Miller. Thank you, Mr. Miller.

20 MR. MILLER: Good morning. I'm Lonnie

21 Miller. I'm from the Last Chance

22 Hunting Club in Covington County.

23 We had a few issues this year. Some of

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1 you guys probably heard about that, and

2 I wanted to come represent our club.

3 Basically we're making some changes

4 this coming year -- upcoming year.

5 We're going to go still-hunt-only on

6 some of the club land where the majority

7 of the property is where the problem

8 came from. There again, they may be

9 valid and may not be. Just, you know,

10 everybody's got an opinion about

11 different issues.

12 We're going to go mandatory GPS

13 units. This day and time, you know,

14 some guys use Quick Tracks. I don't.

15 But the club itself is going to use

16 mandatory GPS units.

17 We're also going to mandatory

18 whistle-breaking dogs, whatever. My

19 dogs are whistle-broke, and that's what

20 we're making mandatory. If you turn a

21 dog out, it will be GPS-collared and

22 whistle-broke.

23 Some of the positive things that we

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1 do as a club, we have -- we really push

2 for the youth hunt every year, have a

3 good time with that. Usually have

4 probably 30, 40 kids there. During the

5 year we encourage youth to come from our

6 community, and, you know, some of them

7 may not have a parent that will bring

8 them hunting. Some people still hunt in

9 the club. Some people take a dog with

10 them. It doesn't matter. We just want

11 to encourage the sport of hunting.

12 This year we had a Wounded Warrior

13 hunt. We took probably, I think, five

14 or six Wounded Warriors hunting. Two of

15 those guys killed a deer. One was from

16 Birmingham, and one was from Hartford,

17 Alabama.

18 So that's pretty much it. I just

19 want to represent the club, and we're

20 going to address our issues.

21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate

22 that very much.

23 Susan Morrow. And while Ms. Morrow

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1 is coming up, when we get through with  
2 those speakers here, we'll be through  
3 with our public comments section. And  
4 then we'll take a short break for  
5 everybody just to kind of give you a  
6 sense of what's coming.  
7 Ms. Morrow. Thank you.  
8 MS. MORROW: Good morning. My name is Susan  
9 Morrow. I'm from Mobile, Alabama. I'm  
10 also the state vice-president of the  
11 Alabama Dog Hunters Association. And I  
12 hope I heard all this right from  
13 Mr. Sykes that our ten days might be  
14 given back to us if y'all vote it in.  
15 Thank y'all so much. I hope y'all do.  
16 And, also, I would like to ask y'all  
17 to look at opening up some of the  
18 management areas for hog hunting with  
19 dogs. I got to actually go on a hunt  
20 with dogs this year, and it was  
21 awesome. It's not like deer hunting  
22 with dogs by no means. These dogs are  
23 very well-mannered, and they -- they're

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1 only going to catch a hog. They're not  
2 going to catch anything else -- or bay a  
3 hog. They're not going to run a deer or  
4 any of that because they're not going to  
5 have them if they do.  
6 But, as you know, we have 37  
7 management areas in this state. We're  
8 allowed to dog deer hunt on four of  
9 them. And a couple of years ago y'all  
10 gave us some extra days, and thank y'all  
11 so much. We appreciate that. But we  
12 would like to see some of our other  
13 management areas opened up because we  
14 have a lot of land, especially in the  
15 Forever Wild, that we could go and run  
16 our dogs on and we wouldn't have any  
17 problems with anybody. Because there's  
18 a lot of us that's all we do. We hunt  
19 management areas. Because a lot of us  
20 can't afford the dues to get in some of  
21 the clubs, the real high, especially if  
22 you have kids. So if y'all could open  
23 up some of these management areas.

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1 And, also, I would like for y'all --  
2 I met with Mr. Steve Barnett about  
3 trying to organize the Upper Delta hunt,  
4 and he doesn't seem to think that it  
5 could be done. But I think it could be  
6 done. It needs to be done to make it a  
7 safer place to hunt. And I would like  
8 for that to be re-addressed.  
9 And thank y'all for everything that  
10 y'all do. Look at the management  
11 areas. And, also, on there, we have a  
12 lot of the roads on there that are  
13 heavily traveled. But they have gates  
14 and they're locked when we go in to hunt  
15 these areas. We would like to see some  
16 of these gates unlocked so it would make  
17 it easier for us old people to get  
18 around, to get to our stands and to go  
19 get our kill or go down there to get our  
20 dogs. Thank y'all so much.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
22 Ronny Rolin.  
23 MR. ROLIN: My name is Ronny Rolin. I'm from

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1 Escambia County, Alabama. I'm the  
2 president of the Alabama Dog Hunting  
3 Association in Escambia County. And  
4 what I come for is to talk about the ten  
5 days -- getting the ten days back.  
6 Because I'm a member of the Poarch Creek  
7 Indians, and we have finally bought  
8 enough land so we can have dog hunting.  
9 And so that's what I come for. And I  
10 appreciate it.  
11 And, you know, we enjoy dog  
12 hunting. And I was talking to my -- we  
13 was figuring up and we probably got, you  
14 know, seven or eight clubs right there  
15 together that dog hunts. And we got a  
16 few still hunters around, but -- you  
17 know, we've been getting along with  
18 some, but, you know, we have our  
19 issues. But if, you know, you got any  
20 complaints in Escambia County, just let  
21 me know, and I'll try to talk to the  
22 dog-hunting clubs and try to work things  
23 out. Thank you.



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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you, sir.  
2 Charles Smith.  
3 MR. SMITH: My name is Charles Smith from  
4 Baldwin County, Alabama, Phillipsville  
5 community. Good morning and thank you  
6 for the opportunity to speak.  
7 We have exhausted almost all of your  
8 options in resolving a problem in our  
9 community. For the past several years  
10 we've experienced problems with Halls  
11 Fork Hunting Club. The problems this  
12 year have led to me being here today.  
13 My family has lived in one place in  
14 the community since the 1940s. My  
15 grandparents started our family  
16 homestead here. My father, myself, my  
17 children have all been raised there.  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Smith, will you speak  
19 closer to the microphone so people can  
20 hear you.  
21 MR. SMITH: Excuse me.  
22 CHAIRMAN GUY: That's okay.  
23 MR. SMITH: I'm a little bit nervous.

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: Don't be nervous.  
2 MR. SMITH: In the beginning the club was a  
3 well-respected club that used to respect  
4 others in the community. The club used  
5 to never hunt on Sundays, only on  
6 Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays. Now  
7 they hunt seven days a week. The club  
8 president stated anytime we have four  
9 members we'll make a drive. The club  
10 used to keep fair control of their  
11 dogs. Controlling their dogs has taken  
12 a back seat to making another drive.  
13 My personal problem has also cost me  
14 money in the past several years or past  
15 few years. I raise cattle, just like my  
16 granddaddy. My daddy and I have some.  
17 And these dogs have run them through  
18 fences, chased them, even chewed on  
19 one. So it has cost both my father and  
20 me money.  
21 This year alone I've had to run the  
22 dogs out of my cows four or five times.  
23 I run them out during calving season

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1 because it's detrimental to the health  
2 of the cow and the calf.  
3 We met with the dog hunters  
4 association, state vice-president,  
5 county president, who listened to the  
6 community members' concerns and tried to  
7 work with us and the club. I personally  
8 until that night had not realized the  
9 threats of violence to persons in the  
10 community by the club members. As a  
11 hunter, I know this type thing is very  
12 detrimental to all hunting. It's hard  
13 enough to hold on to your rights to  
14 hunt.  
15 The Alabama Dog Hunters Association  
16 set what was supposed to be a meeting  
17 with Halls Fork and the community  
18 members on neutral ground in another  
19 community. When we got to the meeting,  
20 there were members of clubs throughout  
21 the county. It felt like we were at a  
22 witch hunt instead of an arbitration.  
23 MS. JONES: Time.

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1 MR. SMITH: In spite of this, we tried to  
2 reach some neutral ground in resolution  
3 to the dog problem. The club assured us  
4 they would make an effort to catch the  
5 dogs and work with community members.  
6 The next weekend everything returned to  
7 the same old thing.  
8 There seems to be a feeling of  
9 defiance in the club. I cannot continue  
10 even one more year. Local sheriffs and  
11 game wardens and the dog hunters  
12 association have tried to resolve the  
13 issue. We ask for your help.  
14 MR. DOBBS: Commissioner?  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes.  
16 MR. DOBBS: May I ask a question, please.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes, sir.  
18 MR. DOBBS: The hunting club that you refer to  
19 that you're speaking about, you didn't  
20 say, but I think you said just now -- is  
21 that Halls Fork?  
22 MR. SMITH: Halls Fork.  
23 MR. DOBBS: How many acres do they control?

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1 MR. SMITH: I don't know.  
2 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.  
3 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Buddy Willis.  
4 MR. WILLIS: Board, Chairman.  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: How you doing, sir?  
6 MR. WILLIS: Some familiar faces. Look at him  
7 shaking his head up there. I'm on this  
8 side this time.  
9 MR. HATLEY: Yeah, I got you, Buddy.  
10 MR. WILLIS: But I'm here on behalf of Blanton  
11 Hill Hunting Club. This club has been  
12 in existence for over 40 years. And  
13 during this time we don't turn our dogs  
14 loose on nobody. We didn't turn our  
15 dogs loose on a management area. And  
16 the reason that especially Mr. Worsham  
17 is mad at Blanton Hill Hunting Club is  
18 that they were members of the club. We  
19 give them a paid membership, et cetera,  
20 et cetera, and they wanted -- Mike  
21 especially. He wanted to bring his  
22 friends and put them on the property and  
23 tell us that we couldn't hunt there on

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1 that property that weekend or whenever.  
2 So, therefore, we hadn't broke any  
3 laws. If they did, the warden up there  
4 didn't give us no ticket. I'll put it  
5 that way. And as far as us doing  
6 anything, the way it looks to me -- and  
7 I don't want to make this a domestic  
8 problem.  
9 They even went so far as to go to  
10 the courthouse and get papers saying  
11 that we couldn't cross this land that we  
12 had crossed for 40 years. So we had to  
13 go get a lawyer and get all that  
14 straightened out, so forth and so on.  
15 But, now, there's always one thing  
16 to remember. When they heard a dog  
17 coming and they was hunting, they knew  
18 there was a deer in front of them. And  
19 if we turn our dogs loose now on Blanton  
20 Hill Hunting property and they go toward  
21 their property, it's running deer that  
22 come off our property. We've got over  
23 40 greenfields that we plant every

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1 year.  
2 So the way I see it, I don't -- I  
3 can't see that we're doing anything  
4 wrong. As far as the noise, there's a  
5 guy that lives close to where  
6 Mr. Thompson's land is that's got coon  
7 dogs, and they bark all day long. I  
8 mean, you know, that don't seem to  
9 bother him too bad.  
10 But, anyway, I don't want to make it  
11 a domestic problem, but I don't think  
12 that we've done anything wrong. And I  
13 don't think that you should limit us to  
14 our hunting, especially the northwest  
15 part of the county.  
16 I went to the board, the  
17 Commissioner. I think maybe y'all might  
18 have got a thing saying that -- and they  
19 all voted to leave the dog hunting in  
20 Colbert County alone. It brought in  
21 revenue. And the sheriff's saying he  
22 feels the same way about it. And I  
23 talked to the officers up there. I

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1 won't call any names. Mr. Eskew.  
2 Mr. Johnson. I will call their names.  
3 Let's put it this way. We didn't  
4 get no ticket.  
5 MS. JONES: Time.  
6 MR. WILLIS: They couldn't find nothing we was  
7 doing wrong.  
8 So I know Dan ain't here today, and  
9 I'll use this 15 seconds to say this.  
10 Last year we was down here and Dan made  
11 a remark that the Tide is killing  
12 Auburn. This coming year we're going to  
13 give the Tide another second and we're  
14 going to do the same thing again.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, it sounds like that ended  
16 on a good note for some of us.  
17 And that brings us to the end of the  
18 public hearing portion of our agenda.  
19 Just to kind of give everybody a  
20 break -- I know we've been in here for a  
21 while. A lot of people are standing.  
22 There might be some people that want to  
23 leave. We're going to take a

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1 15-minute -- would that be okay?  
2 We'll reconvene in 15 minutes at  
3 11:20.  
4 (A recess was taken at 11:08 a.m.  
5 and proceedings resumed at  
6 11:28 a.m.)  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: In the interest of getting  
8 things accomplished as quickly as  
9 possible -- it's a pretty day outside.  
10 We want everybody to have a chance to go  
11 outside.  
12 We had a little bit of a mishap on  
13 the public speaking part and a couple of  
14 people came up to me. You know, it  
15 was -- it seemed a reasonable request.  
16 So we had two people that were  
17 overlooked that should have been called  
18 on, and so I'm going to let two people  
19 speak.  
20 We generally don't do that, but  
21 since we were able -- some other people  
22 yielded their time and we were able to  
23 go through it quickly, then I'm going

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1 to -- I'm going to allow them, if the  
2 board will let me do so, because I think  
3 that's the fair thing to do. It was  
4 just a mistake in what information was  
5 given to me. And no blame needs to be  
6 placed anywhere.  
7 And let me make sure I've got the  
8 names. It was Mr. Holston; right?  
9 MR. PFEFFER: No. John Curtis Pfeffer. John  
10 Pfeffer. You overlooked me.  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Thompson and who else?  
12 MR. PFEFFER: Mr. Pfeffer, me.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: What was your last name?  
14 MR. PFEFFER: Pfeffer with a "P."  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Oh, okay. Pfeffer.  
16 All right. So, Mr. Pfeffer, would  
17 you come on up, please, sir.  
18 MR. PFEFFER: Yes, sir.  
19 CHAIRMAN GUY: And we're sorry about the --  
20 MR. PFEFFER: That's fine. I appreciate y'all  
21 giving us time to do this after all  
22 this.  
23 But my name is John Curtis Pfeffer,

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1 and I'm part of Halls Fork Hunting Club,  
2 which is in Baldwin County. I've lived  
3 in Perdido pretty much all my life.  
4 We're just right there at -- I'm within  
5 five minutes of our hunting club. And  
6 some things was brought to y'all's  
7 attention earlier about some agreements  
8 that we had come up with during the  
9 meeting that the Alabama Dog Hunters  
10 Association had come up with and the dog  
11 hunters and some of the landowners that  
12 was there.  
13 I personally was there that night.  
14 I personally asked, you know, the  
15 gentleman that was up earlier  
16 speaking -- I asked him personally,  
17 along with the other gentleman that was  
18 there -- what they was asking for was  
19 basically more communication of what  
20 makes this -- you know, to make all this  
21 work.  
22 So, therefore, that evening, you  
23 know, I had asked them, you know, is

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1 this what you want, is it okay. We  
2 asked the one gentleman about his  
3 pasture. He said he would rather see us  
4 go out in his pasture -- if our dogs was  
5 out there, see us go out in the pasture  
6 to actually get the dogs than what he  
7 would see, you know, fooling with his  
8 cattle. Which I haven't heard of any of  
9 our dogs fooling with any cattle if they  
10 have gotten on his property. He has not  
11 made a phone call to me to come get any  
12 dogs nor anybody that I know of to come  
13 get his dogs.  
14 The dog that was brought to our  
15 attention that was -- supposedly that  
16 attacked the cattle that -- or the calf  
17 that was actually attacked by the dog  
18 was not even a hunting dog. It was a  
19 bulldog. I'm assuming that that's what  
20 that was, was a bulldog. That's what it  
21 was told by us. Because we went and  
22 asked the guy's father about actually  
23 going and paying for damages.

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1 We have done several different  
2 things over this past year to make  
3 things a lot better on our hunting  
4 club. We've all started trying to run  
5 GPS tracking collars, and if not GPS,  
6 just a Quick Track tracking collar to  
7 get us close to our dogs.  
8 I'm not going to stand here and say  
9 you can catch the dogs every time they  
10 come by because it's very, very hard.  
11 But we know exactly where they're at.  
12 We're trying our best to get our hands  
13 on them. A neighboring stalk club that  
14 was -- you know, that was kind of  
15 communicating with us a few years ago  
16 and last year said this year -- even at  
17 the meeting that we had said that this  
18 year -- said that they are -- you know,  
19 seems like we're getting a whole lot  
20 better handle on what he thought was a  
21 dog issue from the get-go.  
22 But our club is not no bad club.  
23 Threats being made, no, there's no

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1 threats being made by nobody. I ain't  
2 got a threat bone in my body. And the  
3 people that's in my club don't -- I  
4 don't feel that way. Because I've got  
5 my children that's in this club. And if  
6 we're doing all these bad things, we  
7 should have citations wrote to us for  
8 all these bad things. The game warden  
9 ain't even come out and seen us. So, I  
10 mean, if it's such bad stuff that we're  
11 doing, I figure that the game warden  
12 would come out and see us.  
13 MS. JONES: Time.  
14 MR. PFEFFER: And what I would have to say  
15 about this is, you know, it's not --  
16 it's not about the trophies that you  
17 bring home. It's about the memories you  
18 make with your family and your kids, and  
19 that's basically what Halls Fork Hunting  
20 Club is about. Thank you.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Thank you.  
22 Hold on. Hold on. Mr. Dobbs.  
23 MR. DOBBS: How many acres do you --

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1 MR. PFEFFER: I'm not exactly 100 percent  
2 sure. I'm not on the board. But I'm --  
3 I'm scared to even guesstimate exactly.  
4 I know it's a good little chunk of  
5 property that we do have. So I'm sorry  
6 I couldn't answer that for you.  
7 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.  
8 CHAIRMAN GUY: Is it Mike Holston? Is that  
9 the other person I promised?  
10 Is he here? Mike?  
11 MR. THOMPSON: T.J. Thompson.  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.  
13 Well, that's the reason, I guess, we're  
14 having trouble.  
15 All right. T.J. Thompson. I  
16 apologize.  
17 MR. THOMPSON: All right. My name is  
18 T.J. Thompson. I live in a small  
19 growing community in Baldwin County,  
20 Phillipsville. Lived there all my  
21 life. I stalk hunt and dog hunt on  
22 occasion. I think everyone ought to be  
23 able to hunt the way they want to as

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1 long as it don't affect others.  
2 I have a complaint with Halls Fork  
3 Hunting Club in my area that has no  
4 consideration for others. They will let  
5 their dogs run loose on others'  
6 property. They leave their dogs out,  
7 don't pick them up. We had a meeting  
8 with -- let me back up here.  
9 I've had their dogs on my property  
10 almost every day during the hunting  
11 season. I asked how many days a week  
12 they hunt. They replied that if they  
13 got four members they make a hunt. They  
14 asked me how often I hunt, and it really  
15 don't matter how often I hunt because I  
16 don't disturb their property when I go  
17 hunting like their dogs do when they go  
18 hunting because nine times out of ten  
19 they're coming to my property.  
20 You can't catch their dogs most of  
21 the time. I asked the members in the  
22 club about -- asked a couple of members  
23 in their club about that. They said a

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1 few years ago their dogs got into  
2 Florida and it cost them a lot of money  
3 to get their dogs back. So they make  
4 their dogs like that so they're the only  
5 ones that can catch them. Well, then we  
6 can't catch them to get them off our  
7 property.  
8 I've called the game wardens on many  
9 occasions. I forgot. I had Clem's cell  
10 phone, SouthernLINC. Got Thad's cell  
11 phone, SouthernLINC. They won't come.  
12 They said they got to see it actually  
13 in -- actually see it happen. I didn't  
14 know until this year you could call the  
15 sheriff's department. And I got three  
16 formal complaints with the sheriff's  
17 department, could have had many more.  
18 But I don't want, you know, to kill  
19 dog hunting in Baldwin County, but  
20 something has got to be done in this  
21 area. Our small community needs  
22 something done about Halls Fork Hunting  
23 Club.

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1 The landowners and stalk hunters had  
2 a meeting with the Alabama Dog Hunters  
3 Association and Halls Fork Hunting Club  
4 to try to work out some of these  
5 problems. The meeting went totally  
6 one-sided. There were several  
7 dog-hunting clubs there that was not  
8 involved in these problems at hand.  
9 Dwayne Allen of the dog hunters  
10 association had talked to Tony several  
11 times about the things that was going on  
12 wrong, and he just ignored it. Mr. --  
13 he ignored Mr. Allen's requests.  
14 The things that we agreed upon did  
15 not work. So I called Tony, the  
16 president of Halls Fork Hunting Club,  
17 and told him that 12 dogs on our  
18 property in three days was unacceptable,  
19 we needed to do something different.  
20 His reply was do whatever it is you  
21 think you need to do. So that's why I'm  
22 here today.  
23 MS. JONES: Time.

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1 MR. THOMPSON: It's just -- they have made the  
2 statements that they've hunted this way  
3 for 40 years and it's going to continue  
4 to be that way. And we're asking for a  
5 little bit of relief. Thank you.  
6 MR. HARTZOG: Commissioner?  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yes, Mr. Hartzog.  
8 MR. HARTZOG: Is Baldwin under a permit system  
9 now?  
10 CHAIRMAN GUY: Stand up. Tracye has got to  
11 hear who's talking.  
12 MR. DODD: Kevin Dodd, Chief of Enforcement.  
13 And, no, Baldwin County is not under a  
14 permit system at this time.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Mr. Hatley had to leave, so  
16 we'll pass that information on to him.  
17 Okay. Thank y'all very much. And  
18 remember this. I know it's hard. But  
19 when y'all sign up, our staff does such  
20 a good job. You fill out the report.  
21 If you say you're for something or if  
22 you're against something, that's where  
23 it goes. So sometimes we get

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1 overlapping information, and we try to  
2 do it in categories. So just remember  
3 to be careful when you sign up is all  
4 I'm saying. But, otherwise, everybody  
5 is doing a great job.  
6 All right. At this time on the  
7 agenda we have our Conservation Advisory  
8 Board district reports. I know y'all  
9 have all submitted those reports. And I  
10 don't want to call on everybody  
11 necessarily to talk about that, but I  
12 did want to first -- if I could have a  
13 little bit of latitude here. Chris  
14 Blankenship, our Marine Resources  
15 director, is here. And I think he and  
16 Dr. Shipp want to talk a little bit  
17 about some red snapper issues and maybe  
18 some other Gulf Coast issues.  
19 Director Blankenship.  
20 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.  
21 In your packets that we provided we  
22 did have two proposed regulations that  
23 deal with coastal fisheries. One of

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1 those is to make the limit for vermilion  
2 snapper ten per person that matches what  
3 their limit is in federal waters. But,  
4 more importantly, we have a proposed  
5 regulation to require the mandatory  
6 reporting of red snapper data from the  
7 charter fishermen and from the  
8 recreational fisherman.

9 And just to give a little bit of a  
10 background on why we're asking to do  
11 this, this is not something just from  
12 us. It is also a request from the  
13 fishermen. I don't know if you've  
14 noticed, but the red snapper fishery  
15 manage -- the way that that's managed by  
16 the federal government is inadequate.  
17 We have had -- that is the largest topic  
18 of conversation amongst the fishermen in  
19 south Alabama and really all over the  
20 state of Alabama that come to the coast  
21 to fish. So we're working diligently to  
22 improve the management of red snapper  
23 and to take over more of the management

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1 of red snapper from the federal  
2 government, that we think that we can do  
3 a better job of that here in the state.

4 The need for this data collection  
5 for the number of red snapper that are  
6 being landed in Alabama, over the last  
7 several years the number of red snapper  
8 using the federal data collection  
9 program has ranged from somewhere on  
10 some years around 400,000 pounds to last  
11 year's estimate was four million  
12 pounds. So the landings in Alabama  
13 don't fluctuate that much over the  
14 course of a year. You know, you don't  
15 go from 400 to 800 to four million  
16 pounds over the course of a season even  
17 as the season is getting shorter and  
18 shorter under the federal management.

19 So it's imperative for us to know  
20 exactly what is being landed in  
21 Alabama. And with that, that will help  
22 us take over maybe some more of this  
23 management from the federal government

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1 and will help provide data to them to  
2 refine the red snapper management  
3 program.

4 There's some letters of support in  
5 your packet that I've provided today  
6 from the Orange Beach Fishing  
7 Association which represents most all of  
8 the charter boats in Baldwin County,  
9 from Zeke's Marina, which is the largest  
10 marina in Baldwin County, from the  
11 Dauphin Island Marina, and also from  
12 Ben Fairy with the Orange Beach Marina.  
13 So we have good support from the charter  
14 industry and from the recreational  
15 industry for this reporting of red  
16 snapper.

17 And we also received funding --  
18 we've applied for a couple of grants and  
19 we received funding to help with this  
20 data collection program and our  
21 increased validation from our staff.  
22 And we were the only Gulf state that  
23 received that funding in order to help

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1 with our program and trying to be a  
2 leader in what's going on with the data  
3 collection of the red snapper in the  
4 Gulf.

5 So, Dr. Shipp, did you want to add  
6 anything?

7 DR. SHIPP: Yeah. I'm fully supportive of  
8 what Chris has said. This snapper  
9 management issue has reached a tipping  
10 point or is very close to it, and the  
11 states -- some of the states are going  
12 off on their own. Florida is on their  
13 own. Texas is on their own. It's in  
14 Congress. There are bills to fix this  
15 problem.

16 It's absurd what's happened. And  
17 the season is down to about 40 days, and  
18 the stocks are stronger than they've  
19 ever been. I would urge certainly our  
20 board members and anyone else to read  
21 this issue of "Guy Harvey" that was  
22 included in your packet of stuff. It  
23 really does a good job of summarizing

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1 the problem.

2 And I think what Chris is proposing

3 is -- will address one of the problems

4 and that's data. The data are just

5 terrible and they get worse. And the

6 states have to be ready to go on their

7 own, and I think that's what this

8 program is going to enable Alabama to

9 do. We have the best snapper stocks in

10 the Gulf, and we need to be ready to go

11 on our own.

12 CHAIRMAN GUY: Does anybody have any questions

13 about that whatsoever at this time?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. And then, Chris, you

16 might want to talk about some

17 legislation that we have too.

18 MR. BLANKENSHIP: We do have a piece of

19 legislation that we're supporting. It's

20 House Bill 403. It would extend our

21 state waters for Fisheries management

22 out to nine miles.

23 Texas and Florida currently have

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1 nine miles that's recognized by the

2 federal government. Louisiana and

3 Mississippi have passed similar

4 legislation through their states that

5 extend their waters to nine miles, and

6 we have legislation to do the same. And

7 there is a part of the Magnuson-Stevens

8 Reauthorization Act that's being talked

9 about in Congress now. It has a

10 provision in there that would give

11 federal concurrence to those states on

12 the Gulf that we could extend our state

13 waters out to nine miles. So we would

14 appreciate support of House Bill 403.

15 That would put us on equal footing with

16 the other states.

17 MR. McMILLAN: What's the status of it?

18 MR. BLANKENSHIP: It has passed -- it passed

19 the House. It passed the Senate

20 committee this week with an amendment.

21 And so it's, you know, poised to -- for

22 the special-order calendar sometime

23 hopefully this next week on the Senate

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1 floor.

2 CHAIRMAN GUY: So we're acceptable to the

3 amendment; right?

4 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN GUY: And so what we need is anybody

6 that could help us just to contact their

7 legislator and ask them to get that bill

8 through. I'm not sure what actual legal

9 effect it may have, but I think if the

10 other states have it, we need it so that

11 if there are some changes there we would

12 already be on board. We wouldn't be

13 behind the curve.

14 Yes, sir, Mr. Dobbs.

15 MR. DOBBS: Who sponsored that bill?

16 MR. BLANKENSHIP: In the House, Representative

17 Sessions from south Mobile County was

18 the primary sponsor, but he had about 25

19 or 26 co-sponsors for the bill.

20 MR. HARTZOG: But it's subject to the feds

21 later accepting the state --

22 MR. BLANKENSHIP: That's correct. But by

23 having it in our state code, it would be

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1 easier to get that federal concurrence.

2 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Now, Chris, do you

3 have -- you already have things that you

4 need passed for, you know, seasons and

5 bag limits, all that. Is that already

6 in your packet?

7 MR. BLANKENSHIP: It is. It's just one change

8 this year with vermilion snapper.

9 Everything else has stayed the same.

10 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So we'll just take that

11 up at the next meeting by motion;

12 correct?

13 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So we'll need to do that

15 by motion at the next meeting.

16 All right. Anything else?

17 MR. BLANKENSHIP: No, sir. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GUY: And speaking of legislation

19 real quick, I'm going to let Fred,

20 Mr. Harders, stand up. There is a

21 bill -- a fishing bill that we think is

22 of interest, also, that we have over

23 there that we think there should be

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1 really good support for. I was going to  
2 let Mr. Harders speak to that.

3 MR. HARDERS: That's House Bill 356. And it  
4 does a multiple of things not only for  
5 us, but it does one thing for Marine  
6 Resources also.

7 In Marine Resources it corrects some  
8 language, allows some privileges on the  
9 fishing pier -- the marine fishing pier  
10 license that they have. But for us it  
11 creates a disabled fishing event similar  
12 to what passed last year for military  
13 hunters. This is for all disabled  
14 anglers. We get requests for exemptions  
15 from license for different groups that  
16 come in and want to put on trips, which  
17 we can't do by law. So this would allow  
18 up to ten disabled anglers to fish under  
19 one license along with their helpers.

20 It also provides for a state lakes  
21 fishing license, a daily license. Right  
22 now we've kind of created barriers to  
23 those state lakes by requiring a regular

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1 fishing license -- freshwater fishing  
2 license. We get people that come in --  
3 we've talked with our lake managers.  
4 Folks come in and when they hear what  
5 it's going to cost them to fish, they --  
6 oh, that's too much. This would provide  
7 for a discounted fishing license so they  
8 could utilize the lakes.

9 Also, this bill provides for a  
10 nonresident three-day family fishing  
11 license. Again, folks come into the  
12 state, utilize our state parks, want to  
13 go fishing. When they find out how much  
14 it's going to cost for everybody to  
15 fish -- this will allow about five  
16 family members to fish under one  
17 license. And it also allows us to count  
18 those five people towards our federal  
19 aid count, which provides more money.

20 But that's House Bill 356. It's  
21 coming up on the House floor this week.  
22 We think it's going to pass. Once it  
23 does that, it goes to the Senate to

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1 committee. We hope it's on a fast  
2 track, and we hope it gets done this  
3 year. And that's Representative Fincher  
4 and Jones along with some other folks.  
5 They're the major sponsors.

6 CHAIRMAN GUY: Any questions about that?  
7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN GUY: And the other thing that we  
9 don't want to lose on the radar for  
10 those fishing licenses and particularly  
11 the family fishing license is it  
12 promotes tourism in our state.

13 And, you know, really what it is, is  
14 a guy or a lady comes in and they've got  
15 their whole family with them and it  
16 allows them to all fish off the same  
17 license without having to buy multiple  
18 licenses when maybe they just catch one  
19 fish or something. So we think it's a  
20 really good -- really good license.

21 So anybody can contact their local  
22 legislators to make sure that gets a  
23 good push. I think they're really good

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1 deals. And I really don't think they  
2 have much opposition. They just need  
3 that push along.

4 Yes.

5 MR. CURTIS JONES: It's already passed the  
6 Senate. It's waiting to get on the  
7 special-order calendar in the House.

8 MR. HARDERS: No, no, no.

9 CHAIRMAN GUY: He's saying no, Curtis.

10 MR. HARDERS: That's the disabled military  
11 hundred percent license.

12 MR. CURTIS JONES: All right. SB 206.

13 CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, either way, keep pushing  
14 it.

15 MR. CURTIS JONES: Yeah.

16 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. And then, Grady, you  
17 also have -- is the Ducks Unlimited --

18 MR. HARTZOG: No. We're going to hold that  
19 until the Republicans get elected.

20 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Now, does  
21 anybody -- Dr. Shipp, you took care of,  
22 I think, everything you had on your --  
23 does anybody else have a district report



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1 or any other matters in their district  
2 that they need to bring up at this time  
3 that they want to discuss?  
4 (No response.)  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Any old business?  
6 I don't recognize from looking at  
7 the minutes that there was anything held  
8 over from the last meeting, but does  
9 anybody have any old business to take up  
10 at this time?  
11 (No response.)  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. New business. I  
13 know we've got a couple of things.  
14 Mr. Dobbs.  
15 MR. DOBBS: I'd like to make a motion, please,  
16 that \$38,000 be appropriated from the  
17 Wildlife Heritage License fund that is  
18 within the scope of the monies there,  
19 and these funds would be used for a  
20 research effort with Auburn University.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Do I have a second?  
22 MR. JONES: I second.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second from

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1 Mr. Jones.  
2 All right. Is there any  
3 discussion?  
4 This is -- we've done this before,  
5 folks. Just so you remember, this is a  
6 statutory issue Legal says that we can  
7 pass at this time. It's just taking  
8 money that is allocated for this and  
9 actually transferring it so they could  
10 use it. That's simply all it is, is a  
11 matter of complying with the statute.  
12 All in favor of the motion say  
13 "aye".  
14 (All board members present  
15 responded "aye.")  
16 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?  
17 (No response.)  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: Motion carries.  
19 All right. Just so we're safe here,  
20 I'm going to look to Legal to make  
21 sure. You know, we have to -- anything  
22 you want to bring up at the next meeting  
23 that needs a motion for, you know,

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1 passage or consideration -- I think  
2 we've talked about it -- my  
3 understanding is all we have to do is  
4 talk about it.  
5 But we'll want to bring up at the  
6 next meeting our seasons and bag limits,  
7 everything that was talked about today.  
8 Certainly there's some areas out there  
9 that were proposed and are subject to  
10 some discussion. But all seasons and  
11 bag limits need to be passed at the next  
12 meeting so that we can appropriately get  
13 them in the "Digest" and get them out in  
14 a timely manner to all the hunters  
15 before the season begins.  
16 So that's all I've got to do is  
17 mention that. We don't actually need a  
18 motion or anything?  
19 MR. DEAN: It would be good if one of the  
20 board members just mentions -- makes  
21 mention of the seasons and bag limits  
22 that they want to vote on at the next  
23 meeting.

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1 MR. HARTZOG: So move.  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: So we just need a motion, then,  
3 that we vote on them at the next  
4 meeting.  
5 We've got a motion from Grady. Do I  
6 have a second?  
7 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.  
8 CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."  
9 (All board members present  
10 responded "aye.")  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?  
12 (No response.)  
13 MR. HARTZOG: One question on that,  
14 Commissioner.  
15 Since Bill Gray is doing that in Lee  
16 County and Barbour County and Henry  
17 County, doing some more studies, will  
18 that be done for presentation at the  
19 next or will that probably have to go to  
20 the last meeting?  
21 MR. SYKES: That will be done in the meantime  
22 between now and the next meeting. So  
23 the only thing that would change within

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1 seasons and bags is we may tweak the  
2 line just a little bit if another road  
3 or major river system falls into that  
4 where we can get that line a little bit  
5 more precise. But the gist of it stays  
6 the same.  
7 CHAIRMAN GUY: Well, yeah. Just so we're  
8 clear on the record, could you do a  
9 motion for the seasons and bag limits  
10 for Marine Resources division?  
11 MR. HARTZOG: So move.  
12 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second?  
13 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."  
15 (All board members present  
16 responded "aye.")  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?  
18 (No response.)  
19 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. I think we  
20 sufficiently have addressed everything.  
21 My understanding is all we have to do is  
22 bring the matter up at this time so it  
23 can be addressed and a motion next time

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1 so that we're just not bringing up  
2 something that we haven't talked about;  
3 correct, Mr. Dean?  
4 MR. DEAN: That's correct.  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. So I think we've covered  
6 that. And we've talked about a lot of  
7 things.  
8 Chuck's PowerPoint presentation is  
9 sufficient for that to be done, number  
10 one. But, number two, you have it all  
11 in your packet too. So everything in  
12 your packet that we've discussed we can  
13 bring up at the next meeting.  
14 Let me just ask anybody -- Grady --  
15 if anybody has any other matters they  
16 want to talk about today.  
17 MR. HARTZOG: I'd like to make a motion that  
18 staff reports back to us as to their  
19 recommendation on the -- it's real  
20 interesting about the air rifle -- come  
21 back to us with their recommendation as  
22 to whether to include or not to include  
23 the air rifle in the muzzleloader

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1 season.  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. There was obviously some  
3 discussions today, too, about some dog  
4 hunting and some permit issues that I  
5 think are sufficiently before us, but if  
6 anybody just needs to talk about that or  
7 bring it up just so we can address it,  
8 now is the time to do that as well.  
9 Mr. Jones.  
10 MR. JONES: Thank you. I would like to --  
11 we've heard some from the Colbert County  
12 area. And I would like to -- for Don  
13 Knight to continue and maybe us talk  
14 about that some as well. But we also  
15 would like to possibly look at putting  
16 part of the area of Colbert County under  
17 a permit system.  
18 MR. HARTZOG: Raymond, can I make an amendment  
19 to yours?  
20 MR. JONES: Absolutely, yes.  
21 MR. HARTZOG: Well, since we've heard so many  
22 complaints about Hall and Mr. Hatley is  
23 not here, since it's his district to

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1 address that and since he -- you know,  
2 if he was here, he probably would -- I  
3 would like us to look at the possibility  
4 of a recommendation on Baldwin County  
5 also.  
6 CHAIRMAN GUY: It doesn't mean we have to do  
7 it. It just means that we can do it if  
8 we want to. And we will start working  
9 with -- we'll continue to work with  
10 Mr. Knight on those issues.  
11 You know, I'm a lawyer, but when a  
12 lawyer comes up and gets up in my ear on  
13 something, you go "what"?  
14 Grady mentioned some stuff about the  
15 air rifle. Let's go ahead and make a  
16 motion on any of those matters we  
17 discussed as being appropriate for  
18 consideration at the next meeting.  
19 Would you do that, Grady.  
20 MR. HARTZOG: Yes. So done.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. Second?  
22 DR. SHIPP: Second.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."

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1 (All board members present  
2 responded "aye.")  
3 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Any other matters?  
4 (No response.)  
5 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. There was one thing I  
6 did want to -- yours is in there.  
7 That's what I say. That was an  
8 all-inclusive motion for Mr. Dean.  
9 Is that all right, Tracye?  
10 That was an all-inclusive motion for  
11 all of those things we just discussed if  
12 they were sufficiently addressed for  
13 Mr. Dean's purposes.  
14 All right. While Chuck is making  
15 sure we've got everything covered, I do  
16 want to mention something else just  
17 briefly. I'll take a point of privilege  
18 from the chair here to say a couple of  
19 things.  
20 Number one, Dr. Lemme, thanks to  
21 your help and all the board and  
22 everything, I think we had a great,  
23 successful start on the new dove

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1 regulations. And I've heard nothing but  
2 positive responses about that. I have  
3 had some inquiries from some folks still  
4 a little bit confused, which I  
5 understand, about what they can and  
6 can't do and how it affects them. And  
7 we're going to continue to work with the  
8 landowners and all that, everybody  
9 that's interested in the dove hunting,  
10 to try to bring that back to the place  
11 it used to be particularly for you.  
12 And so I just want to encourage  
13 everybody to look closely at that.  
14 That's a great opportunity -- social  
15 opportunity to have fun with kids,  
16 family, and everything else that also  
17 brings us back much needed license  
18 sales, you know, through dove hunting  
19 and gets corporations involved and  
20 businesses involved and that type of  
21 thing. And as you all know, we don't  
22 get any general fund money. Strictly --  
23 you know, we're a, you know,

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1 user-pay/user-benefit group -- actually,  
2 user-pay/everyone benefits group. So as  
3 many licenses as we can sell, that helps  
4 us also get that matching federal  
5 money. So just encourage folks to dove  
6 hunt.  
7 Dr. Lemme.  
8 DR. LEMME: I just wanted to recognize the  
9 enforcement group for doing the joint  
10 training that we had with the Extension  
11 where all the game wardens and our  
12 Extension agents were together. They  
13 trained together so that everybody was  
14 getting the same message and the same  
15 interpretation. That was tremendous  
16 coordination. Thank you.  
17 CHAIRMAN GUY: And then the other thing I  
18 wanted to mention very briefly and for  
19 all of you that are here, you know, I  
20 had somebody that was personally  
21 affected by an unfortunate accident, a  
22 hunter-related accident this year. And  
23 our goal -- our hunter education

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1 department does a great job of trying to  
2 get the message out to everybody about  
3 hunting, whether it's, you know, your  
4 tree stand safety or whether, you know,  
5 using a gun. And we really need to all  
6 work together to try to, you know,  
7 eliminate hunter-related accidents.  
8 Most of them just go back to just,  
9 you know, making sure you're safe every  
10 time you've got a gun or you get in a  
11 stand. And you need to -- if you've got  
12 friends and you see them doing  
13 something, you know, where they're not  
14 using their safety harness or, you know,  
15 you're afraid to ask them is your gun on  
16 safety, do it anyway. Because we  
17 just -- all those deaths are  
18 unnecessary. And, you know, when it  
19 affects somebody close to you, it means  
20 something important. And I would like  
21 for us to work as much as possible  
22 toward zero hunting deaths next year.  
23 Hunting accidents in themselves are

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1 going to happen, but unneeded deaths, I  
2 mean, that's just something we need to  
3 try to all eliminate.  
4 So, anyway, I know everybody agrees  
5 with me on that. But every year -- we  
6 see it maybe more than the public sees  
7 it because they all come to us through  
8 our hunter education. We're in charge  
9 of making sure we look at those, and  
10 they're just unnecessary.  
11 Yes, sir.  
12 MR. McMILLAN: How many deaths did we have  
13 related to hunting?  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: You know, too many. But Marisa  
15 is not here. Is it seven?  
16 It was seven. And some of them were  
17 just -- some of them were just -- you  
18 know, most of them were just  
19 unnecessary. I mean, you know, some of  
20 them were kind of those you just would  
21 never contemplate.  
22 And, of course, we had a number of  
23 nonfatalities, particularly where people

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1 come out of their stands and either  
2 don't have -- you know, don't have their  
3 hunting straps on or -- some of them are  
4 just coming down the steps of stands and  
5 don't have their guns unloaded and they  
6 go off on them. You know, so just some  
7 things like that. But most of it can be  
8 prevented if -- with the people that  
9 you're with. If you see something,  
10 don't be afraid to say something to  
11 them. You might be saving their life.  
12 All right. Sorry about that  
13 soapbox, but it's important.  
14 Yes, Mr. Dobbs.  
15 MR. DOBBS: One more proposal motion. We  
16 talked about the game check system.  
17 Just so that we have the opportunity to  
18 amend, change, add, or detract from it  
19 for the next meeting or the meeting  
20 beyond that.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: Okay. We've got a motion. Do  
22 I have a second?  
23 MR. AINSWORTH: Second.

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."  
2 (All board members present  
3 responded "aye.")  
4 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?  
5 (No response.)  
6 (Brief interruption by the court  
7 reporter.)  
8 MR. DOBBS: One more, I think, towards  
9 housekeeping would be with the turkey  
10 seasons, to talk about that. Even  
11 though it's in the package, it was  
12 something that was an aside to keep the  
13 turkey seasons as they are so that we  
14 can talk about that or vote on that next  
15 week -- next meeting.  
16 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. We've got a motion.  
17 Do I have a second?  
18 MR. MARTIN: Second.  
19 CHAIRMAN GUY: We have a second.  
20 All right. All in favor say "aye."  
21 (All board members present  
22 responded "aye.")  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?

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1 (No response.)  
2 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Do we need  
3 anything ...  
4 Come here, Chuck. Ya'll give me one  
5 second here.  
6 All right. Sorry Dan is not here.  
7 Maybe we'd be pushing this along.  
8 All right. Is there any other new  
9 business?  
10 (No response.)  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. So the next item on  
12 the agenda is selection of the date and  
13 location of the next Advisory Board  
14 meeting.  
15 I've already gotten some bad looks  
16 because --  
17 DR. STRICKLAND: After turkey season.  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: Yeah. After turkey season has  
19 been requested. But I don't know if I  
20 can do that. I'm going to -- I may have  
21 to -- I don't know what I'm going to  
22 have to do.  
23 (Brief interruption.)

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1 CHAIRMAN GUY: But, really, we -- again, like  
2 I said earlier, we got set back a little  
3 bit. The legislature meets early in  
4 election years, and that threw us out of  
5 kilter here. And so usually this is our  
6 second meeting where we pass motions.  
7 I'll talk with our staff. There's  
8 issues related to getting all this done  
9 and in the books and printed. And so we  
10 will work with you the best we can. I  
11 will not make any promises.  
12 And so, anyway, just bear with me,  
13 and we'll select a place. If anybody  
14 has a specific request, please let Betsy  
15 and I know, and we'll certainly give  
16 that serious consideration, where we  
17 might want to meet that is convenient  
18 for everybody.  
19 DR. STRICKLAND: I think Huntsville is pretty  
20 convenient.  
21 MR. AINSWORTH: Or Mobile. He can take us  
22 fishing.  
23 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. And we'll certainly

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1 post all that on the Web and let all the  
2 public know so that they can certainly  
3 attend those meetings.  
4 Anything else?  
5 MR. DOBBS: One question of Mr. Harders.  
6 Do we need to consider migratory  
7 birds now or next meeting?  
8 MR. HARDERS: They're in the --  
9 CHAIRMAN GUY: Seasons and bag limits.  
10 MR. DOBBS: Okay.  
11 MR. HARDERS: But one thing to note, that  
12 there's probably going to be extra days  
13 for doves.  
14 CHAIRMAN GUY: There's extra days for doves?  
15 MR. HARDERS: Possibly.  
16 CHAIRMAN GUY: Possibly. Okay.  
17 So really anything in the seasons  
18 and bag limits is what we covered in our  
19 motion, didn't we?  
20 Okay. So all of that is  
21 encompassing for consideration. That's  
22 okay. Chuck gave that handout, and that  
23 was part of his presentation.

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1 All right. Anything else?  
2 I'm looking down here to make sure  
3 we didn't miss anything.  
4 Yes, Mr. Harders.  
5 MR. HARDERS: One thing I might mention,  
6 included in that packet -- you've  
7 probably seen it or maybe not, didn't  
8 get to it. We're recommending what that  
9 one gentleman asked for is the use of  
10 suppressors.  
11 CHAIRMAN GUY: That was Fred Harders.  
12 It's in the package. But, yes, the  
13 gentleman mentioned the use of  
14 suppressors, and I believe that is in  
15 there for consideration as a proposal.  
16 Mr. Dean, are you satisfied that  
17 we've got all the seasons and bag limits  
18 covered by motion?  
19 MR. DEAN: Yes. I like those final motions  
20 that Joey made. They were very good.  
21 CHAIRMAN GUY: So we have an all-inclusive  
22 motion -- let's just one more time --  
23 all-inclusive motion --

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1 How about making one. David will  
2 drive me crazy if he looks at the  
3 minutes later.  
4 -- for passing any of the matters  
5 that are proposed in seasons and bag  
6 limits. Is that okay, Mr. Dobbs? Can  
7 you make that motion?  
8 MR. DOBBS: Yes. I make that motion that all  
9 seasons and bag limits that have been  
10 proposed, that we make a motion we will  
11 vote on those and deal with them at the  
12 next meeting.  
13 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. Second?  
14 DR. STRICKLAND: Second.  
15 CHAIRMAN GUY: All in favor say "aye."  
16 (All board members present  
17 responded "aye.")  
18 CHAIRMAN GUY: All opposed?  
19 (No response.)  
20 CHAIRMAN GUY: All right. That's good. With  
21 that, we're adjourned.  
22 (Meeting adjourned at  
23 approximately 12:06 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on March 1, 2014.

The foregoing 180 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

This 1st day of April 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracye Sadler Blackwell  
ACCR No. 294  
Expiration date: 9-30-2014  
Certified Court Reporter  
and Commissioner for the State  
of Alabama at Large