

## 2017 Regional Legislative Agenda

→ **Forever Wild Program** • CAP supports adequate funding of the Forever Wild Program and its continued management by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. CAP does not support the use of funding designated for the Forever Wild Program for any other purpose.

→ **Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)** • CAP supports adequate funding for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to ensure continued environmental scrutiny of economic development and industrial expansion projects in the state and to safe guard against federal and EPA involvement.

### Economic Development

CAP advocates for, on all levels of government, policies and legislation that encourage economic growth and promote an economic environment in which business can prosper throughout Coastal Alabama.

#### Federal/State:

→ **Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits** • CAP supports the renewal of the Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits to preserve historic buildings while serving as an economic catalyst for redevelopment of our cities and towns.

→ **Research and Development Tax Credits** • CAP supports the creation of a R&D Tax credit modeled after federal R&D credit but with an enhanced credit if research is conducted by an Alabama based academic or nonprofit research institution.

→ **New Market Tax Credit** • CAP supports the renewal and expansion of the New Market Tax Credit program by increasing the individual project cap (currently \$10 Million) and the aggregate cap (currently \$20 Million).

→ **Alabama Film Legislation Incentives** • CAP supports the renewal of incentive legislation to grow the film industry in Alabama. CAP fully support increasing the individual budget cap of \$20 million as well as increasing the overall \$20 million annual state limit of total incentive funds.

→ **State Park and Lodge at Gulf Shores** • CAP supports the development and enhancement of park and recreational facilities at the State Park and Lodge at Gulf Shores to attract economic investment to Coastal Alabama through tourism and convention business.

CAP does not support local or state legislation or attempts through legislation to create laws that target and/or discriminate against individuals or groups based on their race, gender identity, age, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. CAP views legislation of this type to be detrimental to economic development and the quality of life in the State of Alabama.

Coastal Alabama Partnership's 2017 Regional Legislative Agenda supports the efforts of the nine economic development entities in Coastal Alabama collectively, representing over 4,700 businesses and nearly 150,000 employees region wide.

These entities include the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Alabama Business Chamber, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism, Visit Mobile, Mobile Airport Authority, Alabama State Port Authority and the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

Our Legislative Agenda focuses on advocating for Coastal Alabama in the following areas:

- Insurance
- Infrastructure & Transportation
- Seafood
- Environment
- Economic Development

### Insurance

Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) will work with regional Gulf Coast partners to address issues and challenges to affordable wind and flood insurance coverage for all citizens and businesses of Coastal Alabama.

#### Federal/State Level - Flood Insurance:

→ **Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program** • CAP supports reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and legislation to keep flood insurance rates affordable. CAP will work with groups like The Greater New Orleans Inc (GNO Inc.) and The Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance (CSFI) to collect and communicate factual and pertinent information to regional stakeholders and if necessary, advocate for specific policies that meet the needs of consumers, are affordable and easily accessible.

→ **Flood Mapping** • CAP supports the continued efforts by the State and local stakeholders to develop and refine flood maps to accurately reflect flood risk in each affected community in Coastal Alabama.

#### Federal/State Level - Wind Insurance:

→ **Regulatory Environment** • CAP supports consistent and stable policies that encourage private sector insurers to participate in high risk area coastal markets.

→ **Fortified Construction Standards** • CAP supports mitigation strategies for the Coastal Alabama region through specifically advocating for Federal and State funding for "Strengthen Alabama Homes Programs", a mitigation grant program established in 2012.

→ **Post-disaster Fraud** • CAP advocates for policies that protect consumers from post-disaster fraud and will work with regional partners to provide education and resources for employers, residents and municipalities.

## Infrastructure & Transportation

CAP supports funding and support of infrastructure and transportation projects critical to the health, environment, society and economy of Coastal Alabama. CAP will advocate and partner with regional partners and stakeholder groups to ensure critical infrastructure needs are met throughout the region.

### Federal/State Level:

#### Roads and Bridges

→ **Baldwin Beach Expressway** • CAP supports ongoing efforts to complete the north/south connector linking Interstate 10 and Interstate 65 past the South Alabama Mega site.

→ **Proposed I-10 Bridge** • CAP, with its regional partners, supports the design phase of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening project and the seeking of funding for construction of the project by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

→ **Alabama Road and Bridge Fund** • CAP advocates for fully funding the State Public Road and Bridge fund in FY 2018 to support the efforts of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

#### Port and Waterways

→ **Bayou La Batre/Coden Waterways** – CAP supports the deepening, widening and maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program of the ship channels in Bayou La Batre and Coden to ensure continued commerce of the Alabama coastal maritime and seafood industries.

→ **Port of Mobile** - CAP advocates for the modernization of the Port of Mobile's federal channel and necessary federal funding levels for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District to support construction, operations and maintenance dredging of the deep-water federal navigation channels to ensure regional commerce, transportation efficiency, navigation safety and jobs heavily reliant upon the Port of Mobile.

#### Air and Rail

### Brookley Field Complex –

CAP supports an ongoing aerospace cluster development strategy through workforce and efforts as it relates to development of the Alabama Aerospace Innovation and Research Center.

CAP supports continued efforts for infrastructure and rehabilitation of the Brookley Field Complex, namely the FAA tower, taxi/lane, secondary runway and apron.

CAP supports the restoration of the legacy Air Force building for economic development reutilization.

→ **Mobile Regional Airport** • CAP supports enhanced air service, promotion and improvement in access to the Mobile Regional Airport.

→ **Federal Aviation Administration** • CAP supports the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

→ **Passenger Rail** • CAP supports the restoration of dependable daily passenger rail service along the suspended route between New Orleans, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida with a designated stop in Mobile, Alabama.

#### Industrial Sites

→ **Mega Site** - CAP supports infrastructure improvements at the South Alabama Mega Site in support of the Baldwin Economic Development Alliance's efforts to locate large scale advanced manufacturing companies to the site.

## Seafood

To ensure the survival, growth and prosperity of one of our region's most valuable industries, CAP supports the improvement of operating and processing capacities of the Coastal Alabama seafood industry. CAP advocates for the protection and promotion of Gulf seafood, commercial and recreational fishing.

### Federal/State Level:

→ **State/Federal Policies and Regulatory Procedures** • CAP supports the identification of potential opportunities for improvement of the seafood industry by federal and state agencies. These improvements → will ensure that the Coastal Alabama seafood industry operates on a level playing field with neighboring state and international competition.

→ **Fisheries/Red Snapper** • CAP supports the lengthening of red snapper season for recreational fishing based on accurate, scientific – based fisheries management research in order to bring relief to local fisherman and strengthen our coastal communities.

### State Level:

→ **Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission (ASMC)** • CAP advocates for continued funding of the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission to ensure Alabama Gulf Seafood is effectively promoted.

→ **Incentives** • CAP advocates for the creation of local and state incentives to encourage and assist our regional processors and fisheries to modernize and expand.

## Environment

A healthy environment is essential to the continued economic prosperity and well-being of Coastal Alabama. CAP advocates that a healthy environment and a strong economy mutually benefit one another. CAP supports legislative measures that promote both economic and environmental resilience.

### Federal/State:

#### Restore Act

CAP supports the use of the recovery funds from the Restore Act for the intended purposes of long term environmental restoration and economic development in Coastal Alabama.

CAP supports the funding of regional, collaborative projects that will have the greatest positive impact to Coastal Alabama's economy and environment. CAP supports a clear process for determining the best use of RESTORE funds in Coastal Alabama.

→ **Economic Development Projects** • CAP advocates that projects with a predominant economic development focus seeking Restore funding be evaluated and properly researched to determine their direct economic benefit to the Coastal Alabama economy.

→ **Environmental Restoration Projects** • CAP advocates that projects with a predominant environmental restoration focus seeking Restore funding be evaluated and properly researched to determine their direct benefit to the Coastal Alabama environment.

### State Environmental Management:

→ **Mobile Tensaw River Delta** • CAP opposes any federalization and management of the Mobile Tensaw River Delta watershed. CAP fully supports local and state management of our crucial Delta habitat.