

Insurance

It is in the national interest to recognize that many communities exposed to flood risk are hubs of trade, finance, agriculture and other nationally-significant economic and defense activities. Affordable and sustainable flood insurance is an integral component of ensuring these communities are able to continue their vital contributions to America.

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 - Millions of Americans depend on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), including 54,800 in Alabama, over 65% of them residing in Coastal Alabama paying \$22M a year for over \$8B in coverage. Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) supports a long-term reauthorization and legislation keeping 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), a national alliance of approximately 250 organizations across 35 states, 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 implement the following policies that effect all communities in Coastal Alabama.

Mitigation - A comprehensive approach to reducing flood losses before a disaster occurs is a more effective means to reducing economic loss and protecting taxpayer interests, than ejecting households and businesses from NFIP via unaffordable flood insurance premiums.

Mapping - Enhancing the way we assess and communicate risk through improvements to the mapping process will protect communities and the NFIP over the long-term.

Affordability - Premiums must remain affordable in order to keep communities across America economically viable.

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

■ Port and Waterways

Mobile Channel Expansion : CAP supports the modernization of the Port of Mobile's federal channel and necessary

federal and state 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 Alabama State Port Authority. Specifically, CAP urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to finalize the Mobile Harbor Draft General Reevaluation Report & Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement without delay.

The Alabama State Port Authority is one of the largest economic engines for the state, with a \$22.4 billion economic impact. According to an economic impact study from the University of Alabama's Center for Business and Economic Research, the port is responsible for 134,608 direct and indirect jobs in the state with a direct and indirect tax impact of \$486.9 million.

Expansion of the channel is vital in maintaining the port's growth. The Panama Canal historically provided a limit on the size of container ships and other vessels. But as the canal has been widened, the ships have gotten larger. The channels existing dimensions place constraints on deeper drafting containerhips and other vessels, and restricts many vessels to one-way traffic, resulting in reduced efficiency and increased costs.

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.

■ 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 supports the commitment of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) in working with public and private partners to increase capacity on Interstate 10 by building a new six-lane, cable-stayed bridge over the Mobile River and a new eight-lane, seven-mile Bayway spanning Mobile Bay.

Traffic crossing Mobile River and Bay on Interstate 10 has more than doubled since the current facilities were built in 1970, far exceeding the planned capacity.

In a recent TRIP Report for Alabama (2016), 50 highway projects were identified that are needed in order to support Alabama's economic growth. TRIP, a national transportation research group, listed the Mobile I-10 corridor as the 2nd most critical project to economic growth in Alabama.

Transportation infrastructure is key to the continued success of the Port of Mobile. As volume increases at the Port (20% last year at APM Terminals alone), the more important the ability to move containers and cargo becomes.

CAP, with its regional partners, supports the completion of the design phase of the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project and the supports ALDOT's effort in seeking grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

Infrastructure Package - CAP believes we should be investing in the state's transportation and infrastructure needs. The Alabama Department of Transportation has had to devote an increasingly large share of its budget to preserving the existing road system, with a shrinking pool of money available for new projects to address congestion, transportation improvements and economic development.

Since 1993, Alabama's gas tax has been 18 cents per gallon and 19 cents per gallon of diesel fuel. After a quarter of a century, population shifts, construction costs and improvements in vehicle mileage have rendered the tax inadequate to meet the needs. This coupled with the expiration stop-gap short-term financing next year, Alabama faces a revenue void that in 2020 will reduce road spending by \$313 million.

CAP is a founding member of the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure (AAI), an advocacy coalition focused on fixing Alabama's infrastructure crisis by identifying financially-responsible investments, reforms and long-term solutions for Alabama's transportation infrastructure and communicating this message to policy makers and the public.

By investing in the State's transportation infrastructure, we can repair and fund roads and bridges, waterways, rail and air projects that will facilitate economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and improve the overall quality of life for all citizens and businesses in Coastal Alabama.

Alabama Road and Bridge Fund - CAP advocates for fully funding the State Public Road and Bridge fund in FY 2019 to support the efforts of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

■ Air and Rail

Brookley Field Complex & Mobile Regional Airport

CAP supports the relocation of commercial air services to the Mobile Downtown Airport and the ongoing effort to improve infrastructure at Brookley to further attract commercial, cargo and other aviation businesses.

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.

Passenger Rail - CAP supports the restoration of dependable daily passenger rail service along the suspended route between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. An economic impact study conducted in 2018 stated that restoration of passenger rail with a 20% increase in visitors would equal to \$220 million increase in tourism spending.

■ 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.

Education & Workforce Development

■ Education Funding

CAP supports adequate funding for Alabama's Education budget, including the state's effort to integrate Alabama's early childhood education, K-12 education and workforce development efforts into a seamless educational journey. Specifically, the "Strong Start, Strong Finish" education initiative which focuses on three stages of education: early childhood education, computer science in middle school and high school and workforce preparedness.

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.

Understanding the complex nature and dynamic relationships between key stakeholders on a variety of issues affecting our coastal Gulf fishery is critical to the long-term economic success and stability of our region. Therefore, CAP strongly supports the inclusion of a representative from Coastal Alabama on the NOAA Fisheries Council (Gulf Council) and will continue to provide whatever support is necessary to facilitate the on-going efforts of our federal delegation to amend and revise the federal statutes to ensure that our coastal fisheries are properly managed, healthy and well-stocked now and in the future.

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 LEVEL

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. CAP will give support to RESTORE projects that accommodate CAP's initiatives and legislative agenda.

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 Coastal Alabama environment.

GOMESA : CAP supports the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, Mobile and Baldwin counties from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in 2018 federal budgets. Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters that help address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama. CAP supports use of GOMESA funds for their intended purposes within Coastal Alabama.

CAP supports legislation amending GOMESA to increase the percentage of federal oil and gas revenues made available to Coastal Alabama and other Gulf States.

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. CAP advocates for protecting the many natural resources and the vast biodiversity that the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta enjoys. We will work with our partners and Alabama Delta Alliance to continue to protect these important lands throughout our coastal region.

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.

Ecotourism - CAP identifies ecotourism as a major resource that would allow further economic growth and diversity to the Gulf Coast region. Mobile and Baldwin Counties have developed tourism industries related to classic ventures such as conventions, major sports tournaments and single events, the beaches, historic homes and gardens, to name a few. One major relatively undeveloped tourism venue however is the Mobile Tensaw Delta and the creation of a robust ecotourism industry. CAP and its partners will work in developing a brand of Coastal Alabama as a destination for tourism that emphasizes the environmental, historical and rich cultural heritage and showcases the regional attraction of the Gulf coast.

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

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 supports increasing the individual budget cap of \$20 million, as well as increasing the overall \$20 million annual state limit of total incentive funds.

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.

Healthcare

CAP supports a health provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama's tax dollars to the state.

CAP supports an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population.

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2019 Regional Legislative Agenda



Coastal Alabama Partnership's 2019 Regional Legislative Agenda supports the efforts of the ten economic development entities in Coastal Alabama collectively, representing nearly 5,000 businesses and over 150,000 employees region wide.

These entities include the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, North 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

Vision, direction and action for the future of Baldwin and Mobile Counties.