



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley has more than 41,000 miles of rivers, lakes and streams. The recreation industry along the Tennessee River system generates almost \$12 billion annually. The Tennessee River watershed has been identified as the most biodiverse river in North America including 230 species of fish, which is twice that of the Mississippi River; and*

*WHEREAS, the 2015 Tennessee River Tour with the national nonprofit, Living Lands & Waters, highlighted the opportunity for a nonprofit to focus on protecting this precious water system from litter and other man-made debris; and*

*WHEREAS, in 2018, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful became the first Keep America Beautiful affiliate in the nation to focus solely on a river, striving to rally and unify communities along the river to keep the Tennessee River healthy for generations to come; and*

*WHEREAS, to date, more than 5,100 volunteers have helped Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to remove more than 970,00 pounds of trash since putting their first boat in the water in 2019. This month, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful volunteers will help to surpass the milestone of 1 million pounds of trash removed from the Tennessee River watershed; and*

*WHEREAS, the Tennessee River brings us together as one watershed community within seven states, including Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia; and*

*WHEREAS, given that we are part of a river system that feeds into the Gulf of America, city ports along the Tennessee River are considered international ports. Therefore, we are connected to the world by our river; and*

*WHEREAS, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful and Keep Alabama Beautiful serve to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our most abundant resource and unifying communities across the state of Alabama to take action:*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 2025, as*

# *Keep the Tennessee River Watershed Beautiful Month*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor