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ADEM Excited Over Passage of Recycling Act

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently initiated an effort to enhance the recycling of solid wastes in Alabama and to address the clean up of illegal dumps across the state. The foundation of this effort was the proposed Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act drafted by ADEM staff and introduced in the current session of the Alabama Legislature.

ADEM Director Trey Glenn noted today that the proposed legislation has successfully passed the Legislature, is awaiting the Governor's signature, and the Department is eager to begin implementing the details of this legislation. "This is a significant step toward a cleaner Alabama," said Glenn. "The passage of this legislation is a huge step toward removing the numerous illegal dumps that are scattered across our beautiful state. In addition, this legislation will provide us with the ability to establish and enhance recycling efforts at the local level and reduce the amount of solid waste materials that are disposed of in Alabama landfills. We are thankful for the Alabama Legislature's recognition of this need, the leadership provided by the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, and the assistance that has been provided by our many stakeholders during this process."

The legislation has three key components that will yield tremendous benefits for Alabama's citizens as well as its vast natural resources. The legislation will provide a funding mechanism to clean up and abate the large number of illegal dumps that plague innocent landowners across Alabama. This effort will be modeled after the ADEM Scrap Tire Program, which is a highly successful effort that is currently supporting abatement measures at illegal scrap tire dumps.

The legislation will also support the enhancement of local recycling efforts by allowing ADEM to provide financial and technical support to local recycling programs. This effort will assist Alabama in establishing and achieving a statewide waste reduction and recycling goal.

(ADD ONE)

In addition, the legislation will provide support for the Department's Solid Waste Program and will enhance inspection activities at approximately 180 permitted landfills. The Department is responsible for permitting and inspecting active landfills and also provides regulatory oversight for approximately 300 closed landfills that have post-closure monitoring requirements.

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