

April 2, 2024

Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
c/o State Lands Division
31115 Five Rivers Blvd.
Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527

RE: Letter of Support for GOMESA Project Application for Historic Blakeley State Park

Dear Commissioner Blankenship:

We are writing to express our strong endorsement of the GOMESA project application being submitted by Historic Blakeley State Park.

The Baldwin County Commission has been a strong partner in helping Blakeley reach its full potential for a number of years. The park is an important cultural and natural heritage tourism attraction for our area and a unique educational resource. It holds special significance for us in Baldwin County both for its special role in our county's history and for its position as a key access point to discovery and enjoyment of the natural wonder that is the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. The Commission has assisted in developing and promoting a number of improvements at the park over several decades, most recently making a substantial investment in its future by helping to pave its public vehicular access roads.

The proposed project is an integral part of long-range plans for continued improvements at Historic Blakeley State Park and will well complement investments by public and private entities and the continued good stewardship of the park's board and staff. The plan calls for notable upgrades in visitor amenities and points of access along the park's Tensaw River waterfront, an area of increasing use and a primary access point to the Tensaw. The facilities to be created or upgraded would meet existing and future visitor needs and result in the creation of a safer, more easily accessible, low-impact concentration of waterfront amenities unparalleled on the Tensaw River corridor.

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The Baldwin County Commission would very much like to see the proposed project become a reality through GOMESA funding, and we urge you to give it your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission

BJU/jb Item GA1

cc: Mike Bunn
Frank Lundy
Audra Mize