

TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER®



Dear _____,

Tennessee Riverkeeper misses hearing from you!

Your past support allowed us to grow our legal program, leading to significant environmental remediation in the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins. In Decatur, Alabama, our work led to a 10-year, multi-million-dollar investment from the City to replace their outdated sewage infrastructure.

The organization is also suing the 3M Company, whose Tennessee River factory has wreaked havoc on vulnerable communities in North Alabama. The invisible PFAS chemicals they have manufactured at their facility don't break down, and therefore stay in the environment. The presence of these "forever chemicals" in drinking water is only recently understood. The health consequences can be seriously harmful – including possibly causing cancer.

In Tennessee, we have ongoing legal actions in nine cities, addressing nearly 3,500 total pollution violations. The majority of these actions were filed over sewage pollution exacerbated by failing infrastructure or over-development. When raw sewage is discharged into surface water, it carries bacteria, pathogens, and viruses that can be a threat to public health. Our lawsuit against the City of Manchester alleges that both the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Clean Water Act were violated when over 33 million gallons of untreated sewage was released into the environment. Our members have expressed that these alleged violations have caused injury to their recreational, aesthetic, and environmental interests. After addressing over 30,000 Clean Water Act violations, we are now seeing a significant reduction in violations at wastewater treatment plants. To state it simply, our strategy to protect water is working.

The organization is also in the process of expanding our cleanup program. Last year, our cleanups collected over 12,000 pounds of litter from the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and their tributaries, and we are on pace to significantly surpass that amount in 2021. So far this year, our cleanups have removed over 8,100 pounds of aquatic litter, including 3,000 pounds from a recent cleanup on the Cumberland River in Nashville.

Your support is an investment in clean water for over 6,300,000 people in the Tennessee and Cumberland River watersheds. We hope you will consider renewing your membership to Tennessee Riverkeeper. You can donate through our website tennesseeriverkeeper.org, or via check mailed to

Tennessee Riverkeeper
P.O. Box 2594
Decatur, AL 35602

Thank you for your support. Feel free to write back to us, or email us at info@tennesseeriver.org

Cheers to cleaner water,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Whiteside". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Whiteside *Executive Director – Tennessee Riverkeeper*