

**From:** [John Christy](#)  
**To:** [Bennett Bearden](#)  
**Subject:** Water Policy  
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Bennett

I am responding to a few aspects of the discussion paper on water policy that deals with impressions and not really with the intent of the policy. The review by McNider contains my more direct thoughts.

Pg. 1. The reference to climate change in the first paragraph is misguided. The evidence is clear that what little change has occurred in the SE is well within natural variability with absolutely no evidence for increases in severe weather, floods or droughts. On the other hand, if water demand rises, then the competition for water will lead to human-caused shortages (if not managed well), but these are not due to the physical climate itself.

Pg. 1. Somewhere in here the State Climatologist needs a voice in the AWAAG.

Pg. 4 top. It is easy to say "sound science" but as I've found in the climate world, one person's sound science is another's quackery. Though still mushy, it is better to say "based on scientific principles that promote environmental and economic sustainability."

Pg 5. I realize there is a lot of "buzz" about water reuse, but this is very expensive. A well-thought-out management plan will allow Alabama to avoid this issue since we consume less than 1 percent of our surface water resources. So the education program should make people aware of the general abundance of water in Alabama and on what scales it is insufficient to provide on-demand use.

Good Luck.

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