



Thursday, July 22, 2021

North Alabama Zoological Society  
4100 Market St SW Suite 100  
Huntsville, AL 35808

RE: Endorsement of North Alabama Zoological Society's efforts to create a zoo

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, we are genuinely pleased to learn about the North Alabama Zoological Society's (NALZS) endeavor to create an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited combination zoo and aquarium. Such an educational and recreational facility will bring a significant new quality of life component to our area. We see the following benefits:

- NALZS is already involved in putting on nature camps, high school clubs, and doing in-school visits. With the zoo, they will provide a unique, immersive life sciences STEAM component for the students of our region.
- AZA zoos and aquariums have been shown to provide mental and emotional benefits to their visitors. As an AZA accredited zoo, NALZS will work with our communities to help lift those that are in need.
- NALZS is already engaged in animal and animal habitat preservation and conservation projects at local, regional, and world levels. This will be accomplished at an even greater levels once the zoo is operational allowing our citizens an outlet to participate in improving the state of the world we live in.
- A key research area of NALZS is sustainable farming. The goal of this research is to benefit North Alabama farmers with environmentally sustainable, higher yielding crops and to provide high quality food for the animals at the zoo.
- AZA zoos and aquariums are great economic and tourism generators, and we look forward to having one in our community.
- The opportunity for synergy between AZA zoos and aquariums and the newly opened Cook Museum of Natural Science located in Decatur will be a huge benefit for our region.

The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce recognizes the impact this exciting project will have on our region's quality of life and officially endorses the North Alabama Zoological Society's (NALZS) endeavor to create an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited combination zoo and aquarium.

Sincerely,

Crystal Brown  
President and CEO  
Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce