

WHEN RECORDED, MAIL TO:
Southern Energy Credit Union
750 17th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203

This instrument was prepared by:
Southern Energy Credit Union
750 17th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-226-6800

□Space Above This Line For Recording Data□

MORTGAGE

(Home Equity Line of Credit)

DEFINITIONS

(A) "Security Instrument" means this document, which is dated **July 10, 2025**, together with all riders to this document.

(B) "Borrower" is **Cary A Rhodes and Melonie Rhodes, Husband and Wife**. Borrower's address is **37 Sontepe Road, Calera, ALABAMA 35040**. Borrower is the mortgagor under this Security Instrument.

(C) "Lender" is **Southern Energy Credit Union**, organized and existing under the laws of the State of **ALABAMA**. Lender's address is **750 17th Street North, Birmingham, ALABAMA 35203**. Lender is the mortgagee under this Security Instrument.

(D) "Secured Indebtedness" means:

- (1) The debt, interest, finance charges, and other fees and charges incurred under the terms of the Home Equity Line of Credit Agreement and Disclosure Statement ("HELOC") dated **July 10, 2025**; the HELOC matures on **July 20, 2045**.
- (2) Any advance made to Borrower or obligation incurred by Borrower pursuant to any contract or evidence of indebtedness benefiting Lender, regardless of whether such advance has been made or such obligation has been incurred in whole or in part as of the date of this Security Instrument.
- (3) Any sum paid and expense incurred by Lender under the terms of this Security Instrument.

(E) "Credit Limit" means the maximum aggregate amount of principal that may be secured by this Security Instrument at any one time. The Credit Limit is **\$58,000.00**. Except to the extent prohibited by Applicable Law, the Credit Limit does not apply to interest, finance charges, and other fees and charges validly incurred by Borrower under this Security Instrument. The Credit Limit also does not apply to advances made under the terms of this Security Instrument to protect Lender's security and to perform any of the covenants contained in this Security Instrument.

(F) "Property" means the property that is described below under the heading "Transfer of Rights in the Property."

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(G) "Riders" means all riders to this Security Instrument that are executed by Borrower. The following Riders are to be executed by Borrower (check box as applicable):

- ☐ Condominium Rider ☐ Planned Unit Development Rider
☐ 1-4 Family Rider ☐ Other (Specify)

(H) "Applicable Law" means all controlling applicable federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, ordinances, and administrative rules and orders (that have the effect of law) as well as applicable final, non-appealable judicial opinions.

TRANSFER OF RIGHTS IN THE PROPERTY

This Security Instrument secures to Lender: (i) the repayment of the Secured Indebtedness, and all renewals, extensions, and modifications of the Secured Indebtedness; and (ii) the performance of Borrower's covenants and agreements under this Security Instrument and the HELOC. For this purpose, Borrower irrevocably mortgages, grants, and conveys to Lender, with power of sale, the following described property located in the County of **Shelby**:

See Attached Exhibit "A"

Parcel ID Number: **351022001035001**

which currently has the address of: **37 Sontepe Road**
Calera, ALABAMA 35040, ("Property Address"):

TOGETHER WITH all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property, and all easements, appurtenances, and fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions also shall be covered by this Security Instrument. All of the foregoing is referred to in this Security Instrument as the "Property."

BORROWER COVENANTS that Borrower is lawfully seised of the estate hereby conveyed and has the right to mortgage, grant, and convey the Property and that the Property is unencumbered, except for encumbrances of record. Borrower warrants and shall defend generally the title to the Property against all claims and demands, subject to any encumbrances of record.

ADVANCES

Any advances made under the HELOC may be made, repaid, and remade from time to time, subject to the limitations of the HELOC. Regardless of whether the Secured Indebtedness is reduced to a zero balance, this Security Instrument shall remain in effect until released or reconveyed.

Any advances made in excess of the Credit Limit shall not be secured by this Security Instrument unless (i) Lender agrees to increase the Credit Limit and complies with any subsequent disclosure, rescission, and other requirements under Applicable Law and (ii) Borrower agrees to execute any documents Lender requires to evidence and secure the increase in the Credit Limit. Lender shall not be obligated in any way under this Security Instrument to increase the Credit Limit or to make additional or future loans or advances in any amount.

THIS SECURITY INSTRUMENT combines uniform covenants for national use and non-uniform covenants with limited variations by jurisdiction to constitute a uniform security instrument covering real property.

UNIFORM COVENANTS. Borrower and Lender covenant and agree as follows:

1. Payment of Secured Indebtedness; Performance of Obligations. Borrower shall pay when due the Secured Indebtedness and shall perform all of Borrower's obligations under the HELOC and this Security Instrument.

2. Charges; Liens. Borrower shall pay all taxes, assessments, charges, fines, and impositions attributable to the Property that can attain priority over this Security Instrument, including leasehold payments or ground rents on the Property, and the dues, fees, and assessments of a condominium association, homeowners association, or similar organization.

Borrower shall make all payments and comply with all covenants as required by any mortgage, deed of trust, security agreement, or other lien document evidencing a lien that is prior to this Security Instrument. Borrower shall not modify, extend, or increase the amount secured by such prior lien document without Lender's written consent.

Upon demand Borrower shall furnish to Lender satisfactory evidence of payment of such taxes, assessments, charges, fines, impositions, and prior liens.

Borrower shall promptly discharge any lien not approved by Lender that has priority over this Security Instrument unless Borrower: (a) agrees in writing to the payment of the obligation secured by the lien in a manner acceptable to Lender, but only so long as Borrower is performing such agreement; (b) contests the lien in good faith by, or defends against enforcement of the lien in, legal proceedings that

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in Lender's opinion operate to prevent the enforcement of the lien while those proceedings are pending, but only until such proceedings are concluded; or (c) secures from the holder of the lien an agreement satisfactory to Lender subordinating the lien to this Security Instrument. If Lender determines that any part of the Property is subject to a lien that can attain priority over this Security Instrument, Lender may give Borrower a notice identifying the lien. Within 10 days of the date on which that notice is given, Borrower shall satisfy the lien or take one or more of the actions set forth above in this Section 2.

3. Property Insurance. Borrower shall keep the improvements now existing or hereafter erected on the Property insured against fire, hazards included within the term "extended coverage," flood, and any other hazards including without limitation earthquakes, for which Lender requires insurance. This insurance shall be maintained in the amounts (including deductible levels) and for the periods that Lender requires. What Lender requires may change during the term of the HELOC. Borrower may obtain such insurance from the insurance carrier of Borrower's choice, subject to Lender's right to disapprove Borrower's choice, which right shall not be exercised unreasonably.

If Borrower fails to maintain any of the coverages described above, Lender may obtain insurance coverage, at Lender's option and Borrower's expense. Such coverage shall cover Lender, but might or might not protect Borrower, Borrower's equity in the Property, or the contents of the Property, against any risk, hazard, or liability, and might provide greater or lesser coverage than was previously in effect. Borrower acknowledges that the cost of the insurance coverage so obtained might significantly exceed the cost of insurance that Borrower could have obtained. Any amounts disbursed by Lender under this Section 3 shall be Secured Indebtedness and shall be payable according to the terms of the HELOC.

All insurance policies required by Lender and renewals of such policies shall be subject to Lender's right to disapprove such policies, shall include a standard mortgage clause, and shall name Lender as mortgagee and/or as an additional loss payee. Lender shall have the right to hold the policies and renewal certificates. If Lender requires, Borrower shall promptly give to Lender all receipts of paid premiums and renewal notices. If Borrower obtains any form of insurance coverage not otherwise required by Lender, for damage to, or destruction of, the Property, such policy shall include a standard mortgage clause and shall name Lender as mortgagee and/or as an additional loss payee.

4. Preservation, Maintenance, and Protection of the Property; Occupancy and Use of the Property; and Inspection. Borrower shall not destroy, damage, or impair the Property, allow the Property to deteriorate, or commit waste on the Property. Borrower shall maintain the Property in order to prevent the Property from deteriorating or decreasing in value. Borrower shall promptly repair the Property if damaged to avoid further deterioration or damage. If insurance or condemnation proceeds are paid in connection with damage to, or the taking of, the Property, Borrower shall be responsible for repairing or restoring the Property only if Lender has released proceeds for such purposes. Lender may disburse proceeds for the repairs and restoration in a single payment or in a series of progress payments as the work is completed. If the insurance or condemnation proceeds are not sufficient to repair or restore the Property, Borrower shall not be relieved of Borrower's obligation for the completion of such repair or restoration.

Borrower shall not materially change the present occupancy and use of the Property without Lender's written consent. Borrower shall not use the Property in an illegal manner or for any illegal use such as would subject the Property to seizure.

Lender or its agent may make reasonable entries upon and inspections of the Property. If it has reasonable cause, Lender may inspect the interior of the improvements on the Property. Lender shall give Borrower notice at the time of or prior to such an interior inspection specifying such reasonable cause.

5. Protection of Lender's Interest in the Property and Rights Under this Security Instrument. If (a) Borrower fails to perform the covenants and agreements contained in this Security Instrument, (b) there is a legal proceeding that might significantly affect Lender's interest in the Property and/or rights under this Security Instrument, or (c) Borrower has abandoned the Property, then Lender may do and pay for whatever is reasonable or appropriate to protect Lender's interest in the Property and rights under this Security Instrument. Lender's actions may include, but are not limited to: (a) paying any sums secured by a lien that has priority over this Security Instrument; (b) appearing in court; and (c) paying reasonable attorneys' fees to protect its interest in the Property and/or rights under this Security Instrument. Securing the Property includes, but is not limited to, entering the Property to make repairs, change locks, replace or board up doors and windows, drain water from pipes, eliminate building or other code violations or dangerous conditions, and have utilities turned on or off.

Any amounts disbursed by Lender under this Section 5 shall be Secured Indebtedness and shall be payable according to the terms of the HELOC.

If this Security Instrument is on a leasehold, Borrower shall comply with all the provisions of the lease. If Borrower acquires fee title to the Property, the leasehold and the fee title shall not merge unless Lender agrees to the merger in writing. If the Property is located in a condominium project or a planned unit development, Borrower shall perform all of Borrower's obligations under the covenants, by-laws, or regulations of the condominium project or planned unit development.

6. Condemnation. Borrower shall give Lender prompt notice of any condemnation or eminent domain proceeding or action pending or threatened against the Property and authorizes Lender to intervene in Borrower's name in any such proceeding or action.

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Borrower assigns to Lender any money awarded to Borrower pursuant to such proceeding or action, and such money shall be applied to the Secured Indebtedness with the excess paid to Borrower.

7. Loan Charges. If the HELOC is subject to a law that sets maximum loan charges, and that law is finally interpreted so that the interest or other loan charges collected or to be collected in connection with the HELOC exceed the permitted limits, then: (a) any such loan charge shall be reduced by the amount necessary to reduce the charge to the permitted limit and (b) any sums already collected from Borrower that exceeded permitted limits shall be refunded to Borrower. Lender may choose to make this refund by reducing the principal owed under the HELOC or by making a direct payment to Borrower. If a refund reduces principal, the reduction shall be treated as a partial prepayment without any prepayment charge.

8. Notices. All notices given by Borrower or Lender in connection with this Security Instrument must be in writing. Any notice to Borrower shall be deemed to have been given to Borrower when mailed by first class mail or when actually delivered to Borrower's notice address if sent by other means. Notice to any one Borrower shall constitute notice to all Borrowers. The notice address shall be the Property Address unless Borrower has designated a substitute notice address. Borrower shall promptly notify Lender of Borrower's change of address. There may be only one designated notice address under this Security Instrument at any one time. Any notice to Lender shall be given by delivering it or by mailing it by first class mail to Lender's address stated herein unless Lender has designated another address. Any notice in connection with this Security Instrument shall not be deemed to have been given to Lender until actually received by Lender.

9. Governing Law; Severability; Rules of Construction. This Security Instrument shall be governed by federal law and the law of the jurisdiction in which the Property is located. All rights and obligations contained in this Security Instrument are subject to any requirements and limitations of Applicable Law. In the event that any provision or clause of this Security Instrument or the HELOC conflicts with Applicable Law, such conflict shall not affect other provisions of this Security Instrument or the HELOC that can be given effect without the conflicting provision.

10. Joint and Several Liability; Co-signers; Successors and Assigns Bound. Borrower covenants and agrees that Borrower's obligations and liability shall be joint and several. However, any Borrower who co-signs this Security Instrument but does not execute the HELOC (a "co-signer"): (a) is co-signing this Security Instrument only to mortgage, grant, and convey the co-signer's interest in the Property under the terms of this Security Instrument; (b) is not personally obligated to pay the sums secured by this Security Instrument; and (c) agrees that Lender and any other Borrower may agree to extend, modify, forbear, or make any accommodations with regard to the terms of this Security Instrument or the HELOC without the co-signer's consent.

Subject to the provisions of Section 11, any successor to the interests of Borrower who assumes Borrower's obligations under this Security Instrument in writing, and is approved by Lender, shall obtain all of Borrower's rights and benefits under this Security Instrument. Borrower shall not be released from Borrower's obligations and liability under this Security Instrument unless Lender agrees to such release in writing. The covenants and agreements of this Security Instrument shall bind and benefit the successors and assigns of Lender.

11. Transfer of the Property or a Beneficial Interest in Borrower. As used in this Section 11, "Interest in the Property" means any legal or beneficial interest in the Property, including, but not limited to, those beneficial interests transferred in a bond for deed, contract for deed, installment sales contract, or escrow agreement, the intent of which is the transfer of title by Borrower at a future date to a purchaser.

If all or any part of the Property or any Interest in the Property is sold or transferred without Lender's prior written consent, Lender may require immediate payment in full of the Secured Indebtedness.

If Lender exercises this option, Lender shall give Borrower notice of acceleration. The notice shall provide a period of not less than 30 days from the date the notice is given within which Borrower must pay the Secured Indebtedness in full. If Borrower fails to pay the Secured Indebtedness in full prior to the expiration of this period, Lender may invoke any remedies permitted by this Security Instrument without further notice or demand on Borrower.

12. Hazardous Substances. As used in this Section 12: (a) "Hazardous Substances" are those substances defined as toxic or hazardous substances, pollutants, or wastes by Environmental Law and the following substances: gasoline, kerosene, other flammable or toxic petroleum products, toxic pesticides and herbicides, volatile solvents, materials containing asbestos or formaldehyde, and radioactive materials; (b) "Environmental Law" means federal laws and laws of the jurisdiction where the Property is located that relate to health, safety, or environmental protection; (c) "Environmental Cleanup" includes any response action, remedial action, or removal action, as defined in Environmental Law; and (d) an "Environmental Condition" means a condition that can cause, contribute to, or otherwise trigger an Environmental Cleanup.

Borrower shall not cause or permit the presence, use, disposal, storage, or release of any Hazardous Substances, or threaten to release any Hazardous Substances, on or in the Property. Borrower shall not do, or allow anyone else to do, anything affecting the Property (a) that is in violation of any Environmental Law, (b) that creates an Environmental Condition, or (c) that, due to the presence, use, or release of a Hazardous Substance, creates a condition that adversely affects the value of the Property. The preceding two

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sentences shall not apply to the presence, use, or storage on the Property of small quantities of Hazardous Substances that are generally recognized to be appropriate to normal residential uses and to maintenance of the Property.

Borrower promptly shall give Lender written notice of (a) any investigation, claim, demand, lawsuit, or other action by any governmental or regulatory agency or private party involving the Property and any Hazardous Substance or Environmental Law of which Borrower has actual knowledge; (b) any Environmental Condition, including but not limited to, any spilling, leaking, discharge, release, or threat of release of any Hazardous Substance; and (c) any condition caused by the presence, use, or release of a Hazardous Substance that adversely affects the value of the Property. If Borrower learns, or is notified by any governmental or regulatory authority or any private party that any removal or other remediation of any Hazardous Substance affecting the Property is necessary, Borrower shall promptly take all necessary remedial actions in accordance with Environmental Law. Nothing herein shall create any obligation on Lender for an Environmental Cleanup.

13. Escrow for Taxes and Insurance. Unless otherwise provided in a separate agreement, Borrower shall not be required to pay in escrow to Lender funds for taxes, insurance, and other assessments.

14. Default. Borrower shall be in default under the HELOC and this Security Instrument if without limitation any of the following occur: (a) Borrower engaged or engages in fraud or material misrepresentation in connection with any aspect of the HELOC or this Security Instrument; (b) Borrower does not meet repayment terms under the HELOC; (c) Borrower's action or inaction adversely affects the collateral for the HELOC or Lender's rights in the collateral including without limitation: (i) Borrower's failure to maintain the insurance required under Section 3 of this Security Instrument; (ii) Borrower's transfer of the Property as provided in Section 11 of this Security Instrument; (iii) Borrower's failure to maintain the Property or use of the Property in a destructive manner; (iv) Borrower's commission of waste of the Property; (v) Borrower's failure to pay taxes due on the Property or Borrower's failure to act such that a lien superior to Lender's lien is filed against the Property; (vi) the death of all Borrowers; (vii) the Property is taken by condemnation or eminent domain; (viii) a judgment is filed against Borrower that subjects the Property to action that adversely affects Lender's interest in the Property; (ix) the creation of a lien on the Property without Lender's permission; or (x) a superior lien holder forecloses on the Property such that Lender's interest in the Property is adversely affected.

NON-UNIFORM COVENANTS. Borrower and Lender further covenant and agree as follows:

15. Acceleration: Remedies. Lender shall give notice to Borrower prior to acceleration following Borrower's breach of any covenant or agreement in this Security Instrument (but not prior to acceleration under Section 11 unless Applicable Law provides otherwise). The notice shall comply with Applicable Law. If the default is not cured on or before the date specified in the notice, Lender at its option may require immediate payment in full of the Secured Indebtedness without further demand and may invoke the power of sale and any other remedies permitted by Applicable Law. Lender shall be entitled to collect all expenses incurred in pursuing the remedies provided in this Section 15, including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law, and costs of title evidence.

If Lender invokes the power of sale, Lender shall give all notices required by Applicable Law in the time and manner prescribed by Ala. Stat. § 35-10-1 et al. Thereupon, Lender shall sell the Property to the highest bidder at public auction at the place required by Applicable Law. Lender or its designee may purchase the Property at any sale. Lender shall deliver to the purchaser Lender's deed conveying the Property. Lender covenants and agrees that the proceeds of the sale shall be applied in the following order: (a) to all expenses of the sale, including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law; (b) to the Secured Indebtedness; and (c) any excess to the person or persons legally entitled to it.

If Borrower is in default, Lender may elect not to accelerate the Secured Indebtedness but instead may refuse to make additional advances or reduce the Credit Limit. Even if Lender elects not to exercise any remedy under this Security Instrument, Lender does not forfeit or waive Lender's right to do so at a later time or to do so if Borrower is in default again.

16. Release. Pursuant to Ala. Code 1975 § 35-10-26, when there is no outstanding Secured Indebtedness and no commitment by Lender to make advances under the HELOC, Borrower may request a satisfaction by sending a written request to the Lender. The Lender, upon such notice, shall file a properly executed and notarized satisfaction of the mortgage or otherwise cause the mortgage to be satisfied according to Applicable Law. Borrower shall pay any recordation costs. Lender may charge Borrower a fee for releasing this Security Instrument, but only if the fee is paid to a third party for services rendered and the charging of the fee is permitted under Applicable Law.

17. Waivers. To the extent permitted by Applicable Law, Borrower waives and releases any error or defects in proceedings to enforce this Mortgage and hereby waives the benefit of any present or future laws providing for stay of execution, extension of time, exemption from attachment, levy and sale and homestead exemption.

18. No Claim of Credit for Taxes. Borrower shall not make deduction from or claim credit on the principal or interest secured by this Security Instrument by reason of any governmental taxes, assessments, or charges. Borrower shall not claim any deduction from the taxable value of the Property by reason of this Security Instrument.

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19. Attorneys' Fees. As used in this Mortgage and the HELOC, "attorney fees" shall include any attorney fees awarded by an appellate court.

20. Borrower's Right to Reinstate. Notwithstanding Lender's acceleration of the sums secured by this Mortgage due to Borrower's breach, Borrower shall have the right to have any proceedings begun by Lender to enforce this Mortgage discontinued at any time prior to the earlier to occur of (i) the fifth day before sale of the Property pursuant to the Power of Sale or (ii) entry of a judgment enforcing the Mortgage if: (a) Borrower pays to Lender all sums that would then be due under this Mortgage and the HELOC had no acceleration occur; (b) Borrower cures all breaches of any other covenants or agreements of Borrower and Lender contained in this Mortgage; (c) Borrower pays all reasonable expenses incurred by Lender in enforcing the covenants and agreements of Borrower and Lender contained in this Mortgage, and in enforcing Lender's remedies as provided in the paragraph set forth hereinabove entitled "ACCELERATION; REMEDIES," including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees; and (d) Borrower takes such action as Lender may reasonably require to assure that the lien of this Mortgage, Lender's interest in the Property and Borrower's obligation to pay the sums secured by this Mortgage and the Note shall continue unimpaired. Upon such payment and cure by Borrower and Lender this Mortgage and the obligations secured hereby shall remain in full force and effect as if no acceleration had occurred.

21. Class Action and Jury Trial Waiver. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement and/or Account, will be determined by a bench trial. You agree that you are waiving the right to trial by jury. YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU AND WE AGREE THAT NO CLASS ACTION OR OTHER PROCEEDING WHERE SOMEONE ACTS IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY, MAY BE PURSUED IN ANY COURT PROCEEDING, REGARDLESS OF WHEN THE CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION AROSE OR ACCRUED, OR WHEN THE ALLEGATIONS OR FACTS UNDERLYING THE CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION OCCURRED.

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BY SIGNING BELOW, Borrower accepts and agrees to the terms and covenants contained in this Security Instrument and in any Riders executed by Borrower and recorded with it. Borrower also acknowledges receipt of a copy of this Security Instrument.

Witnesses:

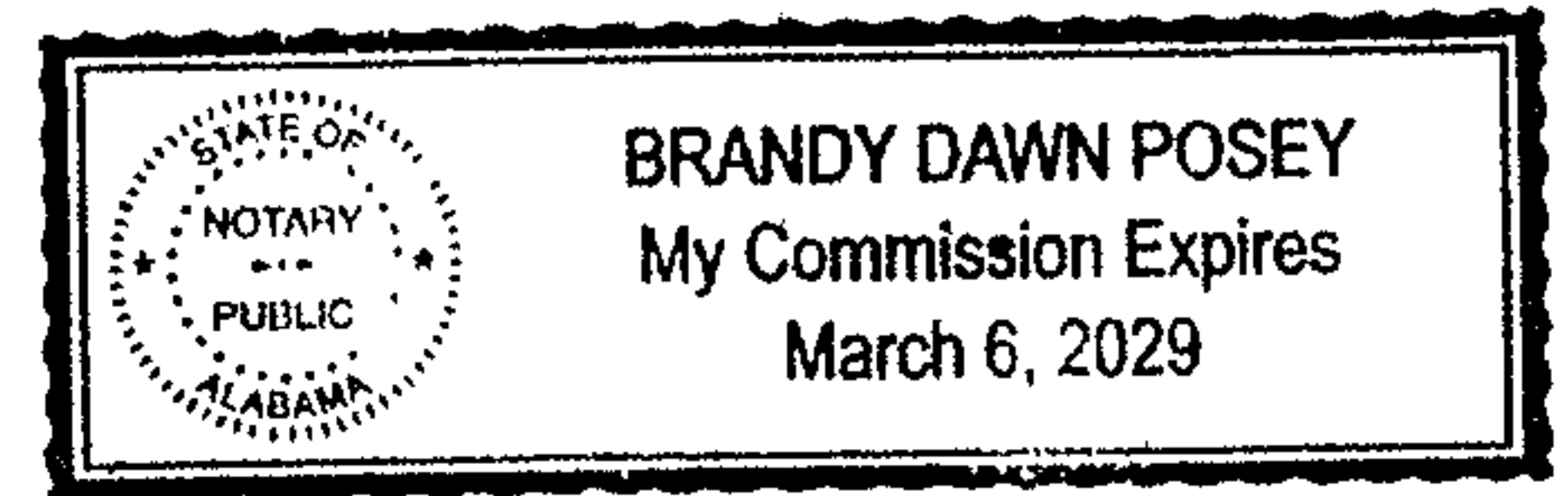
_____	-Witness	_____	-Witness
<u>Cary A Rhodes</u>	(Seal) -Borrower	<u>Melanie Rhodes</u>	(Seal) -Borrower

STATE OF ALABAMA, Chilton County ss:
On this 10th day of July, 2025,
I, Brandy Dawn Posey,
a Notary Public in and for said county and in said state, hereby certify that **Cary A Rhodes and Melanie Rhodes**, whose name(s) is/are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is/are known to me, acknowledged before me that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he/she/they executed the same voluntarily and as his/her/their act on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 10th day of July, 2025.

My Commission Expires: March 6, 2029
Brandy Dawn Posey
Notary Public

Loan originator (Organization): **Southern Energy Credit Union; NMLS #: 761805**
Loan originator (Individual): **Erin Dillon; NMLS #: 1288924**



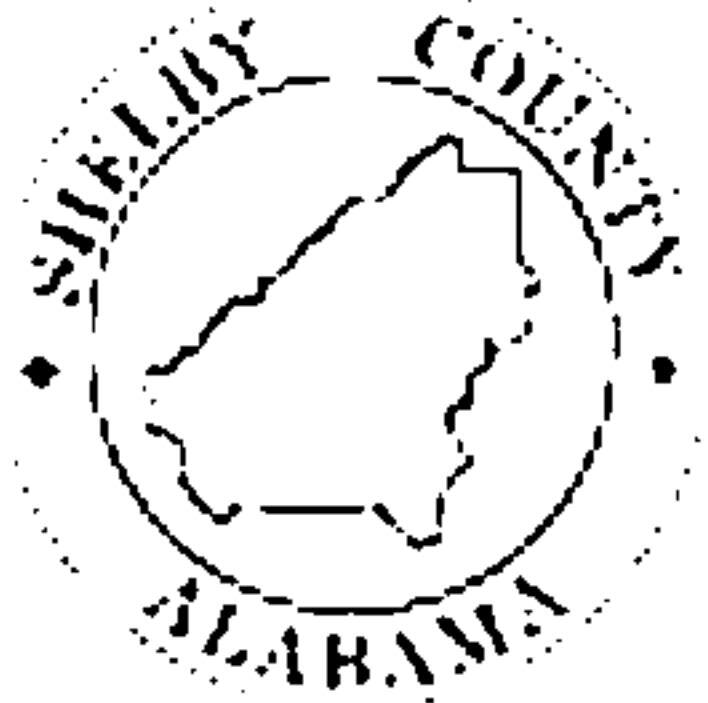
CAR [Signature]

EXHIBIT "A"

Commence at the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 24 North, Range 13 East, Shelby County, Alabama; thence run easterly along the North quarter-quarter line 33.50 feet to the Point of Beginning of the property being described; thence 33 degrees 34 minutes 45 seconds left and run 92.74 feet to a point; thence 11 degrees 54 minutes left and run 85.84 feet to a point; thence 38 degrees 34 minutes left and run 76.50 feet to a point; thence 20 degrees 27 minutes left and run 44.56 feet to a point on the West right of way line of U.S. Highway 31; thence 11 degrees 35 minutes left and run northerly along said right of way 100.10 feet to a point; thence 72 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds left and run 113.54 feet to a point; thence 85 degrees 18 minutes 51 seconds left and run southerly 300.0 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Chain of Title:

This being the same property conveyed from Arthur Rhodes, a single man to Cary A. Rhodes and wife, Melonie Rhodes, as joint tenants, with right of survivorship by deed dated 11/27/2001 and filed 11/30/2001 in book 2001, Page 51952.



Filed and Recorded
Official Public Records
Judge of Probate, Shelby County Alabama, County
Clerk
Shelby County, AL
07/17/2025 10:11:40 AM
\$44.00 PAYGE
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