

Date Introduced: 3/28/16

Date Voted Upon: 3/28/16.

A Resolution to be Entitled:

The University of Alabama System Must Help Protect Birmingham's Drinking Water

1 WHEREAS, the Crestwood South Neighborhood believes that clean,
2 safe, affordable drinking water and the health of the Black Warrior River basin are both essential to the
3 quality of life of residents in the greater Birmingham area and the State of Alabama; and
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5 WHEREAS, we believe coal mining and/or coalbed methane (natural gas) drilling at Shepherd Bend
6 would be detrimental to the quality of Birmingham-area drinking water, and to the health of the Mulberry
7 Fork of the Black Warrior River. We are opposed to the discharge of polluted wastewater from potential
8 coal-related extraction activities into the Mulberry Fork at Shepherd Bend, the daily drinking water source
9 for 200,000 customers of the Birmingham Water Works Board (BWVB); and
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11 WHEREAS, The BWVB has offered detailed information as to how polluted water from coal mines will
12 introduce heavy metals, sediment, and other pollutants into the river. These pollutants can result in
13 increased treatment costs (typically passed on to customers), decreased tap water quality, and possible
14 health risks, as well as degradation of the river. The BWVB also stated that a mine this close to a major
15 municipal water intake would be "incompatible" and "unprecedented"; and
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17 WHEREAS, on June 19, 2015), Shepherd Bend LLC's owner, Drummond Company, announced it will not
18 renew its permit to mine coal at Shepherd Bend; and
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20 WHEREAS, Drummond has not indicated that its withdrawal is permanent; and Drummond or any other
21 company could propose coal mining or coalbed methane drilling at Shepherd Bend at any time; and
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23 WHEREAS, anyone seeking to mine coal or drill hydraulic fracturing wells for coalbed methane at
24 Shepherd Bend will have to obtain leases or purchase land and/or mineral rights from the University of
25 Alabama (UA), the biggest owner of land and mineral rights at Shepherd Bend; and
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27 WHEREAS, we strongly believe the damage which would be done to drinking water, the harm to fish and
28 wildlife, and the pollution discharged into the river are all excellent reasons to prevent any mining or
29 drilling proposal at Shepherd Bend; and
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31 WHEREAS, the cities of Birmingham and Warrior, the neighborhoods of College Hills, Crestline,
32 Crestwood North, Forest Park / South Avondale, Glen Iris, Highland Park, Norwood, Oak Ridge Park,
33 Roebuck Springs / South Roebuck, and South East Lake, the communities of Roebuck / South East Lake
34 and Titusville, the UAB USGA, UAB GSA, UAB PHSA, and UAH SGA, and Birmingham's Citizens
35 Advisory Board have all passed resolutions urging UA to protect Birmingham's drinking water source at
36 Shepherd Bend; and,
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38 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Crestwood South Neighborhood,
39 implore UA to pledge permanent protection for Shepherd Bend from coal mining and coalbed methane
40 extraction; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will send a copy of this Resolution to Chancellor Robert E. Witt
43 The University of Alabama System, 500 University Blvd E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401-1551; requesting that
44 he share this Resolution with all UA System Trustees and Administrators.
45

46 President: Elizabeth Murray