



**Resolution #R-08-12
University of Alabama
Student Senate 2011-2012**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SHEPHERD BEND MINE PROPOSAL

Authored by: Elliott Bell

Sponsored by: Ryan Flamerich & Sydney Page

WHEREAS: The Student Government Association of the University of Alabama (UA) and the UA Student Body believe that clean, safe, affordable drinking water and the environmental health of the Black Warrior River basin are both essential aspects of the quality of life of the residents of the Birmingham area and the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS: The Shepherd Bend Mine would be detrimental to the drinking water, the surrounding area, and to the Black Warrior River itself; and

WHEREAS: Such damage to the Black Warrior River would result from the discharge of waste water from the coal mining into the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork only 800 feet from the drinking water intake facility serving over 200,000 Birmingham-area residents; and

WHEREAS: The Alabama Surface Mining Commission, amid much controversy, issued a permit to Shepherd Bend, LLC on October 2010, allowing the company to mine 286 acres adjacent to the river; and

WHEREAS: This permit is now under appeal by the Birmingham Water Works Board, for the board has offered information detailing the increased treatment costs, decreased water quality, possible health risks, and degradation of the river caused by the introduction of pollutants, such as heavy metals and sediment from the mine's waste water discharges; and

WHEREAS: Shepherd Bend, LLC must obtain leases from property owners if it chooses to mine beyond its first increment of 34 acres; and

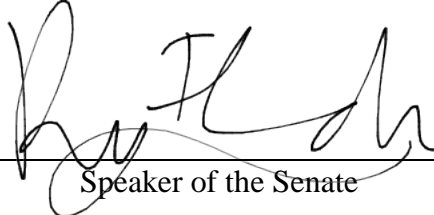
WHEREAS: The University of Alabama System is a major owner of both land and mineral rights at Shepherd Bend; and

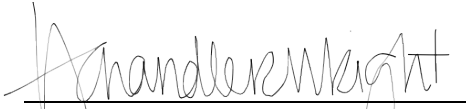
WHEREAS: Without the consent and full participation of the University of Alabama System, it may not be cost effective to mine Shepherd Bend at all; and

WHEREAS: We strongly believe that the damage done to drinking water, the harm to fish and wildlife, and the tons of sediment dumped into the river and the adjacent wetlands are all clear and compelling reasons not to allow this project to progress.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Student Senate, as a division of the Student Government Association, with the expressed support of the Student Body of the University of Alabama, implore the University of Alabama System to neither sell nor lease their sizeable land and mineral holdings to allow coal mining at Shepherd Bend.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: copies of this resolution be sent to Dr. Robert E. Witt, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Mark D. Nelson, Vice President of Student Affairs; the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama; Stephen Swinson, SGA President; David Wilson, SGA Vice President of Student Affairs; Alan Rose, SGA Vice President of External Affairs; Chad Clark, SGA Advisor; and *The Crimson White* for informational purposes.


Speaker of the Senate


Secretary of the Senate