

## PRESS RELEASE



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### 600 LETTERS GENERATED IN LETTER-WRITING WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT BIRMINGHAM WATER SUPPLY

**Cordova, AL**— Student leaders united across 8 campuses by the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE) to collaborate with citizen leaders from Cordova Citizens' Opposed to Strip Mining on the Black Warrior River (CCOSM) for a letter-writing workshop in support of citizen efforts to protect the City of Birmingham's drinking water supply and sustainable growth of the Cordova area. CASE and CCOSM leaders spearheaded an effort that produced approximately 150 hand-written letters, which were then copied and sent to the Director of the Alabama Surface Mining Commission, National and Birmingham Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement, and Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

All student and resident letters were sent in support of environmental watchdog agency Black Warrior Riverkeeper's (BWRK) recent legal petition to designate areas of the Black Warrior River's Mulberry fork as lands unsuitable for mining. The petition area covers a relevant area of land upstream of the Birmingham Water Works Board (BWVB) intake facility, including much of the proposed Shepherd Bend and Reed Mine Number Five mining areas. The deadline for sending letters of support is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Both strip mines would be located in the Cordova area, and could obstruct award-winning economic development plan for the area. The BWVB and BWRK both continue to legally object to the placement of the mines, both of which hold the potential to contaminate Birmingham's drinking supply for approximately 200,000 Birmingham-area residents.

**CASE** is an 8-campus coalition of student and citizen grassroots organizations united to support Alabama's economy, environment, and public health through sustainable policy change and infrastructure development. **CASE** members work individually and collectively with public, private, and non-profit organizations to achieve legitimately beneficial compromises to environmental justice and natural resource conservation issues within Alabama communities.