

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**STUDENTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS OF STATEWIDE CLEAN DRINKING WATER LOBBY DAY WITH  
NEW, STUDENT-CRAFTED LEGISLATION**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, Birmingham, Alabama** – Students of the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE) celebrated the success of last week’s April 9<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day event with the introduction of House/Senate Joint Resolution 191 into the State of Alabama’s 2013 Legislative Session. The event, which brought over 75 students from 8 CASE university campuses and Indian Springs School, allowed students the opportunity to voice their concerns and recommendations for the future quality and quantity of Greater Birmingham drinking water sources. CASE hosted a press conference and over 35 meetings with legislators in support of Indian Springs 8<sup>th</sup> graders Alabama water use policy recommendations.

State Representative Juandalynn Givan (D-Birmingham) introduced HJR 191 to provide a public forum to express concerns over the quantity and quality of drinking water supplies in Greater Birmingham. The resolution will provide state and local officials with new resources and tools to plan for the future of Birmingham’s drinking water.

HJR 191 will establish a non-partisan study commission to objectively research connections between the present and future health and economic prosperity of the region and regional drinking water supplies. The purpose of the Commission will be to create an avenue through which economic and public health interests can lay the foundations of a plan to preserve the region’s most important natural resource: drinking water.

As the state’s most densely populated area and home to Alabama’s largest employer, UAB Health Systems, students believe that a strong focus of study is needed on Greater Birmingham in order to determine whether or not diminishing drinking water supplies will limit the region’s potential for future economic growth.

Additionally, public reports received from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management reveal that **over 295 million gallons of raw, untreated human sewage spilled into the Cahaba and Black Warrior Rivers in the past 10 years.** Both rivers serve as the source of drinking water for many communities in Jefferson, Shelby, and other counties in the state.

The Commission is designed to bring all interests to the table around issues of water quantity and quality. Representatives of the business, scientific, public health, and public policy communities will all serve on the Commission.

The legislation is sponsored by Representatives Mary Sue McClurkin (R-Indian Springs), John Rogers (D-Birmingham), Rod Scott (D-Fairfield), Christopher John England (D-Tuscaloosa), and Richard Laird (I-Roanoke). The Senate Resolution is sponsored by Senators Priscilla Dunn (Jefferson), Rodger Smitherman (Jefferson), Cam Ward (Alabaster), and Roger Bedford (Russelville).