



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**For more information:**

Melanie Kieve  
ISS Communications/Public Relations  
205.332.0615  
[mkieve@indiansprings.org](mailto:mkieve@indiansprings.org)

Aaron Traywick  
CASE Public Relations Director  
334.318.6151  
[traywickaaron@gmail.com](mailto:traywickaaron@gmail.com)

**CASE TO SUPPORT YOUTH WATER POLICY STUDY AT INDIAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, Indian Springs:** The Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment will be supporting a unique new program debuting at Indian Springs School this February. Coinciding with the start of the 2013-2014 Alabama Legislative session and the ongoing creation of Alabama's new Statewide Water Management Plan, ISS students will participate in an innovative public policy development program designed to establish bi-partisan, objective recommendations for new statewide water quality policies. Beginning February 14<sup>th</sup>, the program will serve to increase youth representation in decisions affecting our state's waterways.

Through Lisa Balazs' 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science course, students will engage the tenets of civic deliberation in an 8-week program specially designed to create policy recommendations that make sense for all of Alabama's diverse communities. Throughout the course, students will compile a comprehensive list of all public and private water users who may be affected by any change in state water policy, and then role-play the needs and priorities of these users in extended classroom debate. As students develop and propose policy recommendations, the challenge will be to devise compromises which can accommodate the unique goals of each Alabama water user. At the close of the program, students will present a list of policy recommendations to state public officials with jurisdiction over water quality policies.

At the center of the program will be real-life examples of ongoing, local water quality issues in need of mediation between public and private users. One of these examples will be the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine, a strip coal mine proposed for construction on public property retained by the University of Alabama. The mine has caused considerable debate in the Greater Birmingham area over the years, due to the potential of the mine to discharge wastewater into the river less than a football field's length away from the drinking water intake for approximately 200,000 city residents.

CASE will provide support for the program by organizing multiple classroom speakers from the Alabama environmental, public policy, and business communities. CASE will also work with local watershed service organizations to create unique service learning opportunities for Indian Springs students.

**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.