



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUTH COALITION SPONSORS STATEWIDE STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

January 7th, Birmingham, AL: Student environmental leaders from campuses and communities statewide united this past weekend to collaborate on the future of student involvement on environmental stewardship and protection issues in Alabama. The day-long summit, hosted at UAB's Hill University Center, was sponsored by the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE) to bring student groups together around issues of concern occurring in the Greater Birmingham area and beyond.

Student representatives from environmental organizations across eight university campuses were present, including University of Alabama, UAB, UA-Huntsville, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, University of Montevallo, Birmingham-Southern College, and Samford University.

Key issues of discussion included the ongoing threat of the Shepherd Bend Mine and its potential, if constructed, to contaminate the city of Birmingham's drinking water supply for approximately 200,000 residents. Student groups met to discuss new tactics to publicly emphasize the negative economic and public health effects that will result if the University of Alabama Board of Trustees agree to allow the mine to be constructed on public property retained by the UA System. The site of the proposed mine is less than 800 feet from the Birmingham Water Works Board intake on the Mulberry Fork.

Student leaders from Auburn University and all UA System universities also conferred to discuss the implementation of the first phase of CASE's statewide Sustainable Investment Project. The primary goal of the project is to protect the future of public higher education in Alabama through the advancement of sustainable, cost-effective, and "green" institutional practices and policies in the uncertainty of the national fiscal cliff crisis.

Students and citizens interested in working with the coalition should send an introductory email to casealabama@gmail.com, to be connected to a CASE liaison in their area.