



July 23, 2012

Dr. Judy Bonner
Interim President
The University of Alabama
Box 870100
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Dr. Bonner:

As owners of Cahaba Brewing Company (CBC), a microbrewery located in the City of Birmingham that relies heavily on municipal water, we are writing to express opposition to the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine. This proposed mine on the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork would discharge wastewater into the river only 800 feet from the Birmingham Water Works Board's Mulberry Fork intake, which provides drinking water for over 200,000 Birmingham-area residents.

The negative impacts from coal mining to surface waters have been well-documented. Additionally, the Birmingham Water Works Board and several environmental specialists have noted that the permitted wastewater discharges from the proposed mine would introduce toxic pollutants and sediment into the water. This action could lead to increased treatment costs for customers, decreased water quality and possible health risks.

It is our understanding that without participation of the UA System, it may not be cost effective for the mining company, Shepherd Bend LLC, to mine at Shepherd Bend at all. That being said, CBC encourages the University to realize the opportunity to look beyond the immediate reward of short-term profit and instead establish a legacy of environmental commitment. The residents of Birmingham, as well as CBC and other locally-owned businesses, rely on the availability of quality drinking water. Please do not compromise water quality by selling or leasing UA's land or mineral rights at Shepherd Bend for mining.

Cahaba Brewing Company was established in 2011 by a group of craft beer and outdoor enthusiasts. We've enjoyed many afternoons paddling the Cahaba River as well as early mornings spent fishing at the Mulberry Fork. There are tremendous natural resources in Alabama's rivers and streams. Please take advantage of this opportunity to set a precedent for environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Taylor DeBoer
Partner / Brewer

Andy Gwaltney
Partner / Brewer

Eric Meyer
Partner / Brewer