



April 30, 2015

Chancellor Robert E. Witt  
The University of Alabama System  
500 University Blvd E.  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401-1551

Dear Chancellor Witt:

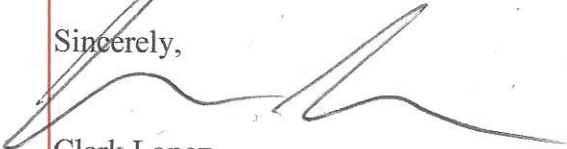
As business owners and residents in Birmingham, we are very concerned about the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine. This mine would discharge wastewater into the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork, only 800 feet from the Birmingham Water Works Board's intake in Walker County, which provides drinking water for 200,000 greater Birmingham-area citizens daily.

Birmingham is known for its good quality drinking water. That is an important basic right that people should have in a community. We have many guests in our restaurant who drink tap water. We use ice, and make coffee and tea from Birmingham water. All businesses and residents in Birmingham should be able to enjoy clean water. Toxic pollutants should not be allowed into drinking supplies.

The University of Alabama has often said that they have no current plans to lease or sell the land. This is an evasive statement. The people of Birmingham need to know that UA is committed to helping ensure our clean water. Please make an announcement that you will never sell or lease your land or mineral rights at Shepherd Bend for coal mining so close to the water intake.

Thank you for informing the UA System Trustees of our position.

Sincerely,

  
Clark Lopez  
President of Rojo

  
Laney DeJonge  
Vice President of Rojo