



Media advisory for
February 2, 2012

CONTACTS:

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ALABAMA RESIDENTS TO HOLD PROTEST, DELIVER 6,000 PETITION SIGNATURES AGAINST COAL MINE

- Birmingham residents to deliver signatures from [campaign on Change.org](http://campaign.onchange.org) on Feb. 2 outside University of Alabama Board of Trustees meeting.
- Campaign demands trustees commit to keep coal mines off university land.

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Alabama college students, local organizations, and Birmingham residents will gather on Thursday to protest the proposed Shepherd Bend coal mine. Joseph Olson, a student at University of Alabama at Birmingham who launched the campaign on Change.org, will deliver more than 6,000 petition signatures demanding that University of Alabama Board of Trustees keep coal mines off university land.

When: Thursday, February 2nd, 11AM CT; “800 Foot March” at 12:30PM followed by petition delivery.

Where: Outside Alys Stephens Center, 1200 10th Ave. S., Birmingham, AL 35294

What: Students and community members will protest Shepherd Bend coal mine and deliver more than 6,000 signatures from petition urging University of Alabama Trustees to commit to keeping coal mines off university land.

The petition drop is coordinated by Joseph Olson, a senior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham who launched a campaign on Change.org in response to concerns that Shepherd Bend, LLC, a company owned by University of Alabama Trustee Emeritus Garry N. Drummond, plans to construct a 1,773-acre coal mine on land largely owned by the University of Alabama.

“When I present the petition to the Board of Trustees, I hope they will see how much the public cares about clean water and social justice,” said Olson. “I hope they will be inspired to start openly discussing the coal mine and pass a resolution against the Shepherd Bend coal mine.”

In addition to the petition delivery and rally, protesters will hold an 800-foot-march to represent the distance between the proposed mine site and a major drinking water intake that services more than 200,000 Birmingham residents.

“The University of Alabama System leaders need to make a clear commitment that they would never sell or lease their land and minerals for mining at Shepherd Bend,” said Charles Scribner, executive director of [Black Warrior Riverkeeper](#).

Live petition signatures from Joe Olson’s campaign:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-the-shepherd-bend-coal-mine-from-polluting-birminghams-water>

Journalists interested in contacting the University of Alabama Board of Trustees should try:

Paul W. Bryant, Jr., President Pro Tempore of UA Board of Trustees
(205) 247-3423
paul.bryant@greengroupinc.com

Kellee Reinhart, Vice Chancellor for Systems Relations
(205) 348-5938
kreinhar@uasystem.ua.edu

Michael Bownes, Board of Trustees Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
(205) 348-8341
mbownes@uasystem.ua.edu

Contact information for petition signers in your area can be available upon request:

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For more information on Change.org, please visit:

<http://www.change.org/about>

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