

Alex Jones & Marjorie Jones
Bill Wood
Elias Watson & Lucy Watson
Jim Henderson & Pam Henderson
Ed Anderson & Dee Anderson

Clarence Blair & Shelia Blair
Duncan Blair & Marie Blair
John Hurst & Nona Hurst
Charles Wingard & Cindy Wingard
Carl Adams & Mims Adams

November 1, 2006

Sheila Smoot, District 1
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Larry Langford, District 2
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Mary M. Buckelew, District 3
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Betty Fine Collins, District 4
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Gary White, District 5
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Re: Little Cahaba River//Sicard Hollow Road//Development of area

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing each of you out of concern for what is going on near and around the Little Cahaba River in Jefferson County. Last year the commissioners approved a development on Sicard Hollow Road where a few hundred acres are now being developed into a very dense residential subdivision. At the time that particular matter came before the Jefferson County Commission for consideration some of us appeared and tried to express our opinions about the harm that would come to the Little Cahaba River and the City's drinking water if development was allowed to continue unbridled in this area. When we tried to speak, for whatever reason the commission as a group was not interested in what we had to say and we were told to sit down. What we had to say to you then we will say to you now.

To continue to allow the unfettered development of this area by developers without giving regard or consideration to the effect the development will have on the surrounding area and runoff into the Little Cahaba River is irresponsible.

At the time we wanted to express to you what effect the runoff from the proposed development would have on the Little Cahaba River and no one wanted to listen. We are sorry that you didn't.

The biggest problem with development in this area is that a main tributary of the Little Cahaba known as Coal Branch flows through Liberty Park and through much of the land that developers have and

will in the near future ask for permission to develop. Coal Branch flows directly into the Little Cahaba River. See the map we have attached. (See Attachment "A")

Whenever there is a large land disturbance near Sicard Hollow Road and any measure of rainfall follows, then mud from the disturbed area flows directly into the Little Cahaba River. It happened in 1998 when Liberty Park and the Vestavia athletic fields were built. It happened again when the latest development on Sicard Hollow began, and it has not stopped.

The Little Cahaba River, if you have not been out there, is probably one of the most beautiful rivers in the country (country not county). It is of such natural beauty together with the surrounding forests that it is hard to imagine that we are lucky enough to have it in our own backyard. There are endangered species that have been thriving in the Little Cahaba River. A report of these is attached. (See Attachment "B") There are plant species and animal species that don't exist anywhere else that are found in the Little Cahaba River. The Little Cahaba River is fragile and needs our protection.

After the commission approved the development without letting us register our concerns we began working to establish a baseline of the condition of the Little Cahaba River so we would have something to look back on to show the River as it existed before any more harm. We took photographs and video of the River between Lake Purdy and where the Little Cahaba River confluences with Big Cahaba River. The reason we are writing each of you is the quality of the Little Cahaba River above and below Coal Branch. Coal Branch enters into the Little Cahaba River just above the Blair Bridge on Sicard Hollow Road and discharges mud and silt from any development that occurs in its drainage. We have attached pictures of the Little Cahaba River above Coal Branch and below Coal Branch. (Attachment "C")


As you can see, the Little Cahaba River above Coal Branch was crystal clear. The Little Cahaba River below Coal Branch is pure mud. Whenever there is a disturbance of land in this area followed by any significant rain fall, the resulting runoff carries mud and silt into the Little Cahaba River. The River can only stand so much of this and then it is going to die along with the plant and animal life that the River sustains. That has now begun.

We are landowners on the River and deeply concerned about the Jefferson County Commission doing whatever is necessary to protect this treasure that we all have in our own backyard. We have produced a 15 minute video to demonstrate what we are trying to protect. We will be more than happy to furnish you with a copy if you will look at it. If we hear back from you, then perhaps this letter and photographs will have done some good and hopefully you will give this matter further consideration. Please contact any of us at the addresses below.

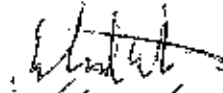
We stand ready to offer you whatever additional information that you may need.

With kindest regards, we are,


Very truly yours,


Alex Jones
Marjorie Jones

4249 Abingdon Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35243



Elias Watson

Elias Watson
Lucy Watson
4005 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242


Jim Henderson

Jim Henderson
Pam Henderson
5190 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Dee Anderson


Ed Anderson
Dee Anderson
5198 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Clarence Blair
Shelia Blair

Clarence Blair
Shelia Blair
4463 Sicard Hollow Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242


Duncan Blair

Duncan Blair
Marie Blair
4505 Sicard Hollow Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Cl. Adams
Mims Adams

Carl Adams
Mims Adams
3980 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Bill Wood

Bill Wood
2848 Shook Hill Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35223

John Hurst

John Hurst
Nona Hurst
4000 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Charles Wingard
Cindy Wingard

Charles Wingard
Cindy Wingard
4004 Cahaba Beach Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

AWJr/jj
Enclosures
cc: Andy Strickland
Jim Carnes