



The General Assembly

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

October 2, 2017

Senator Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator David Perdue
United State Senate
455 Russell Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Earl "Buddy" Carter
United States House of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress and Fellow Georgians:

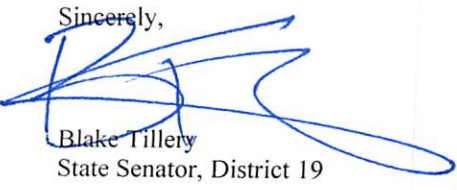
Thank you for all you do daily to protect our nation, our state, and our beloved home of southeast Georgia. We pray for your wisdom and safety as you act on our behalf. We try to stay informed about the actions of our federal government and recently read the Environmental Protection Agency is suspending the enforcement of the effluvia rule limiting the amount of toxic substances drained from coal ash ponds to public water bodies. As you may know, the issue of coal ash deposits in our districts are a major concern. Our constituents and yours are vehemently opposed to coal ash dumping and the repercussions such action could bring to our economy and community health.

Most recently, citizens in and around Wayne County fought to deter a company from hauling toxic coal ash from out-of-state into the Broadhurst Environmental Landfill located in our community. Without the coordinated push back from concerned citizens, our area may have already become one of the largest dumping grounds for coal ash in the Southern United States. Such actions could affect the health of our citizens and hinder commercial and industrial attraction, both of which are already major issues for rural Georgia.


We are located amongst a network of waterways (including the Altamaha River) that flow into the Atlantic Ocean. Additionally, we are close in proximity to the ports of Savannah and Brunswick. Our districts' economy and economy of Georgia as a whole rely heavily on the health of these channels. Our districts also rely heavily on other natural resources and agriculture. We provide a wide range of products and sustenance to the State of Georgia and the United States. Our constituents and neighbors fear allowing the EPA to suspend the enforcement of the effluvia rule would threaten these resources, our health, and our economic outlook. Additionally, they fear relaxing this rule would cause severe damage to the environment and hinder economic growth. As your constituents and representing your constituents, we urge you to strongly oppose the decision of the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend enforcement the effluvia rule.

We value your leadership and partnership, your commitment to rural Georgia, and you putting action to your words by ensuring the protection of rural Georgia's waterways and natural resources.

Sincerely,


Blake Tillery
State Senator, District 19


Chad Nimmer
State Representative, District 178


Bill Werkheiser
State Representative, District 157