

January 17, 2008

Members of the House of Representatives
Georgia General Assembly
State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Members of the House:

The Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) writes to express its full support for the draft Statewide Water Management Plan that has been adopted by the Water Council.

We commend the dedication and hard work of the Water Council, state leadership and other stakeholders in the development of this draft plan and are sincerely appreciative that ACCG and Georgia counties were able to participate in all phases of its creation. While we did not get all that we sought, we feel that all of our concerns were taken into consideration, properly vetted, and believe that workable and sensible compromises resulted. Certainly, any single group represented at the Capitol would have done it differently to suit their own interests. However, in our form of government, the task of bringing together these divergent interests rests with elected policy makers, be they at the state, federal or local level.

This plan is an important first step in solving one of Georgia's most critical challenges – that of properly managing our water resources to meet present and future demands while protecting our environment, and that all regions and interests in Georgia are ensured fairness in the process. Indeed, no plan can be perfect at its inception and we trust the General Assembly will properly consider and address future, needed revisions to improve upon it. ACCG looks forward to continued county participation in this effort. We do feel that it is of paramount importance that a plan is adopted this session in order to provide a foundation on which to build upon, and that further postponing its adoption should not be an option.

Again, ACCG supports the statewide water management plan and appreciates your consideration in its passage. Georgia counties look forward to working with our state, city and other partners toward its proper implementation, and toward securing a dedicated and adequate funding source which is absolutely essential to ensure its long-term success.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Griffin
Executive Director