

Media Release

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City Leaders Praise Lawmakers

ATLANTA – City leaders today praised state lawmakers for voting down legislation that would have limited the level and number of services that local governments could provide to their communities. The vote on SR 796 was 10 votes short of a two-thirds majority required to pass a resolution for a Constitutional Amendment.

“By defeating this plan, legislators have indicated they understand and respect the value of allowing local communities to govern themselves,” said GMA Executive Director Jim Higdon. “I hope that the legislature and Governor Sonny Perdue will now take this opportunity to appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission to take a thoughtful, comprehensive look at providing real tax reform to Georgians. Local government taxes are just one piece of the puzzle; balancing service demands, fiscal responsibility and accountability should part of any tax reform debate. We welcome that dialogue.”

City leaders also thanked legislators for being open to their concerns and listening to them on the issue. “We’ve been engaged in this issue since early last summer,” said GMA President and Kingsland Mayor Kenneth Smith. “It’s encouraging to see so many legislators heard those concerns and voted accordingly when they went to Atlanta.”

Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to its 500 member cities.