



GEORGIA  
WATER  
COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VOTERS LOG-IN, WORK THE CAPITOL Advocating for Truth in Government

**ATLANTA, GA (March 3, 2021)**—200 advocates gathered together to bring attention to legislation aimed at protecting communities that depend on clean water and a healthy environment.

The Georgia Water Coalition's (GWC) virtual Capitol Conservation Day assembled members from across the state to meet with lawmakers and urge them to support [HB 511](#).

**This year's event focused on training advocates to help close-out the GWC's nearly fifteen-year campaign to "put the trust back in the trust funds."**

Previously under the Georgia Constitution, legislators could create fees to fund specific programs, but they could not ensure that the fees collected would be used for their intended purposes. Specifically, the Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds (SWTF & HWTF) were intended to fund community programs including hazardous waste site cleanups, recycling programs, municipal landfill remediation, and illegal tire dump cleanups. Over the years since these funds were created, hundreds of millions of dollars were diverted to the state's general fund for other purposes.

**On election-day in November 2020, Georgians said enough is enough in approving Amendment #1. 81.6% of Georgia voters sent a clear mandate demanding that they get the clean ups they paid for. The Trust Fund Honesty Amendment has changed the landscape for these funds.**

In order to guarantee that these important cleanup programs are fully funded, **the General Assembly must pass HB 511**. This bill will ensure that 100% of cleanup funds collected will be spent on these clean community programs. The bill also dedicates the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, State Children's Trust Fund, Wildlife Endowment Trust Fund, Trauma Care Network Trust Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, Georgia Agricultural Trust Fund, Fireworks Trust Fund, and Georgia Transit Trust Fund.

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***About Georgia Water Coalition:***

The Georgia Water Coalition is a consortium of more than 275 conservation and environmental organizations, hunting and fishing groups, businesses, and faith-based organizations that have been working to protect Georgia's water since 2002. Collectively, these organizations represent thousands of Georgians.

The [Georgia Water Coalition's](#) mission is to protect and care for Georgia's surface and groundwater resources, which are essential for sustaining economic prosperity, providing clean and abundant drinking water, preserving diverse aquatic habitats for wildlife and recreation, strengthening property values, and protecting the quality of life for current and future generations.