



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

CALL TO ACTION!

HELP RESTORE TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT

THE PROBLEM

While Georgia legislators adopt laws creating fees to fund state programs, current law does not allow legislators to “dedicate” the fees to their intended funds. Instead, the fees often go to the state’s general fund and are spent elsewhere.

In 1992, the State of Georgia imposed a \$1 fee on every new tire sold to support the **Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds**, a fund to provide support for cleaning up scrap tire dumps and the remediation of contaminated properties.

Since the fee collection began, **\$469 million has been collected, but approximately 40% (or \$193 million) has been diverted from the funds.**

Scrap tire dumps damn up our creeks and endanger aquatic life, while also creating stagnant pools of water that become breeding ground for mosquitos. If not cleaned up, hazardous waste sites pose serious threats to our water quality. The pollutants can be carried into adjacent streams or seep into the groundwater and contaminate our drinking water.



THE SOLUTION

If the state collects fees for a specific purpose, those funds should be used for that purpose. **House Resolution 158** addresses this issue.

WRITE TO OR CALL YOUR SENATOR TODAY TO MAKE THESE POINTS:

- HR 158 creates a Constitutional amendment allowing legislators to “dedicate” these fees. You may read House Resolution 158 here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/166121.pdf>
- When the state charges a fee, the state should spend the money on the programs the fees were created to support. Cities and counties are required to follow this practice and the state should be held to the same standard.
- Stop stealing the fees away from these important funds that improve our communities. These fees should be returned to the communities where they are collected in the form of programs that clean up the water, improve the environment, and protect our property values.
- Use this example: \$493 million has been collected to support the Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds, but almost \$200 million has been diverted for other purposes. This money should be spent to eliminate scrap tire dumps and clean up contaminated properties.
- **Ask your senator to support HR 158 and restore trust in our trust funds.**
You may find your senator here: https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/

YOUR RIVER AND THE NEXT GENERATION WILL THANK YOU!

This table shows the amount of fees from new tires sold that was appropriately directed to the Solid Waste Trust Fund vs. the amount misappropriated to the general budget.

Source: “Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund, Report for Fiscal Year 2012,”

https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/SWTF2012_021814.pdf

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Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF
FY 2002 to FY 2012

