



BUCKHEAD COALITION

Tower Place 100, Suite 1640
3340 Peachtree Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1079
Telephone 404-233-2228
office@thebuckheadcoalition.org

February 27, 2023

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The Honorable [REDACTED]
Georgia State Senate

[REDACTED]@senate.ga.gov

Dear Senator [REDACTED]

The Buckhead Coalition urges you in the strongest terms to oppose Senate Bill 113 and Senate Bill 114, which would allow for the unprecedented de-annexation of portions of the City of Atlanta.

The concerns fueling these proposals are very real - we're all worried about crime and public safety, especially those who live in the city - but the approach offered by de-annexation is shortsighted and counterproductive to our mutual goals of increased public safety and economic progress.

We have profound symbolic and practical reservations about dividing our city. Cleaving one neighborhood from the rest would mean the end of Atlanta's reputation as "the city too busy hate," an identity so strong it helped attract the Olympic Games and made us a global tourist destination.

There are many reasons to be proud to be an Atlantan: world-class institutions of higher learning, a booming economy, and more sports and cultural attractions than there are hours in the day. But I'm most proud of Atlanta's tradition of civic groups collaborating with government, business, and faith leaders in public-private partnerships to address our most urgent local challenges. SB 113 and SB 114 would represent an admission that we no longer believe in that model.

I've called Buckhead home for three decades. In that time, the Buckhead Coalition has helped make Buckhead the most vibrant neighborhood in Atlanta. We urge you to oppose

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Chris Ahrenkdel; James L. Allgood, III; Herbert Ames; PJ Bain; Stanley W. Benecki; Andrew J. Berg; Claudia Bilotto; Joseph Blanco; G. Niles Bolton; James R. Borders; Richard E. S. Bowen; Frank B. Bradshaw, III; Camille W. Brannon; John F. Brock, III; Matthew M. Bronfman; Frank V. Brown; Kevin L. Brown; Paul J. Brown; Benjamin Q. Brunt; Mark A. Buffington; Samuel G. Candler; Tony L. Conway; James B. Cumming; Charlie Crawford; Jay M. Davis; Cynthia N. Day; Frank W. DeBorde; Steven J. DeFrancis; Michael S. Donnelly; Vivian N. DuBose; James C. Edenfield; Walter Ehmer; Todd Ehrlich; Michael A. Fierman; Steven R. Fisher; David P. Fitzgerald; Robert P. Fransen; Kevin J. Glass; Michael D. Golden; BJ Green; John N. Gregg; Kevin Greiner; Victoria Haack; J. Rawson Havery, Jr.; Mark W. Hennessy; Tommy Holder; R. Douglas Hutcherson; Sam R. Johnson; I. Pano Karalassos, Sr.; James Y. Kerr, II; Kathryn A. Kirkpatrick; Randolph J. Koporc; David P. Lanier; Heidi L. LaMarca; Richard H. Lee; William H. Linginfelter; Paul D. Little; Robert C. Loudermilk, Jr.; Kristine Maggio; Addie P. Mathes; J.P. Matzigkelt; Forrest G. McClain; Seth McDaniel; Guntrum Mert; James B. Miller, Jr.; David Y. Millican, IV; Ned Montag; Bartow Morgan, Jr.; R. Brand Morgan; Brian M. Nelson; Geoffrey N. Nolan; Vicki R. Palmer; Gary S. Peacock, Jr.; Rizwan Peera; Robert E. Peterson; Cameron S. Pierce; Jenny S. Pruitt; Bryan Rand; J. Michael Robison; Joy Rohadfox; G. Matthew Rohrig; George W. Rohrig, Jr.; D. Jack Sawyer, Jr.; S. Stephen Selig, III.; S. Paul Shalendra; Earl L. Shell, Jr.; Alana S. Shepherd; James H. Simpson; Jeffrey S. Sloan; David B. Songy; P. Brian Steed; Wendy H. Stewart; David P. Stockert; Stephen R. Stone; Robert P. Stoner; Mark W. Tipton; Carol B. Tomé; Valery Voyles; Patrick D. Warren; Burke Whitman; Douglas L. Williams; James E. Winchester, Jr.

these measures because we have skin in this; this is our community, and we've worked hard to make it so special.

Atlantans voted last year for new leadership, and these changes are bearing fruit today. In cooperation with the City of Atlanta and other business and civic organizations, the Buckhead Coalition has helped to reduce crime in our community by 14 percent. That downward trend leads the whole city, thanks to new investments by local law enforcement. Atlanta's new leaders made commitments to voters in the last election, and we must give them a meaningful chance to honor them.

Buckhead is at once home to major commercial enterprises in towering skyscrapers and young families on quiet, tree-lined streets. That didn't happen by accident, and we have the Gold Dome to thank for fostering such a unique pro-business climate across the state. But businesses crave - no, they demand - stability and confidence in local government. In practical terms, SB 113 and SB 114, creating a November 2024 referendum, would sow chaos and set us down a long path of uncertainty.

These bills will choke off economic development because there are significant, practical questions about de-annexation for which we have no answers. What happens to the existing water and sewer infrastructure, whose systems won't change with political whims? And what about the state's bond markets? These are questions that businesses will consider in their due diligence in considering relocation.

The General Assembly deserves enormous credit for helping make Buckhead, the City of Atlanta, and the State of Georgia what they are today by supporting free market solutions to local challenges. We hope you won't abandon this track record now. Please, vote NO on Senate Bill 113 and Senate Bill 114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Tanenblatt". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Eric Tanenblatt
Chair