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Your Legislator '08



Rep. Pedro "Pete" Marin

D - Duluth

Age: 49

District: 96 - City of Norcross and part of unincorporated Norcross and Duluth

Occupation: Business Consultant

Committees: Banks & Banking, Economic Development, Industrial Relations

Water: Water has become a hot button legislative issue in Georgia. The importance of this natural resource became even more evident over the summer, which was the driest ever. Now is the time for federal, state, and local governments to collaborate on resolving this crisis. I am confident this can happen. We just need leadership, vision, and full cooperation from the private sector, government, and residents. In all honesty, our mentality with regard to water consumption is going to have to change. We need to understand that water is not an infinite resource. Government can play a role in changing how we use water by offering incentives to homes and businesses. Those who proactively employ new techniques, purchase equipment, or take some other substantive step to minimize water consumption should be compensated for their actions. Tax incentives can also lead to innovation and the development of new goods and services capable of meeting the challenge we now all face. Overall, we must establish a sustainable water conservation policy and other viable solutions that are practical, fair and effective.

Transportation: This year we have an excellent opportunity to finally develop a comprehensive statewide transportation plan. With the governor, GRTA, the legislature, local governments, and the private sector all collectively agreeing

that traffic and congestion on our highways is bad for our economy and environment, there is a real chance for change. Any transportation plan should be multifaceted and comprising of different modes of travel. Transportation can be the conduit to economic development, improved environmental standards, and increased tourism. It is an investment worth making.

Tax Relief: Speaker Glenn Richardson has trimmed his plan to eliminate all property taxes in Georgia - and instead will push for the removal of school taxes paid by homeowners, and taxes on personally owned cars and trucks. With regard to HR 900, it is a question of whether local governments will have the flexibility to improve their local economies and adequately fund their government operations; whether small businesses will suffer from having to pay a tax for services they rely on; and whether it will prevent poor Georgians from receiving medical care, legal assistance, purchase groceries, or fix their homes. The governor and the lieutenant governor have publicly questioned the proposed tax policy citing concerns of limiting local control over fiscal matters. There needs to be more research on the impact of changing our tax structure. Many of us are property owners and would love to do away with property taxes, but not at the expense of small businesses, local authority, and our most vulnerable citizens. We must ensure, as representatives of all Georgians, that tax reform is incrementally implemented, intent on making taxation progressive, and not a burden upon hardworking Georgians trying to make a decent living.

Local Initiatives: I have always supported local governments who proactively attempt to stimulate their economies. Gwinnett, as a county, is growing exponentially and requires a mechanism that allows for the establishment of new businesses, improves infrastructure and supports existing businesses. I am confident the Gwinnett Village and Gwinnett Place CID will serve as such mechanisms. As a member of their respective task forces I will continue to advocate for their full funding and implementation.



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