



February 28, 2011

Mr. A.D. Frazier  
Chairman  
Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians  
State Capitol, Room 338  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Frazier,

The Georgia Mining Association strongly supports the recommendations of the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness. Our members are strongly in favor of the recommendations, if adopted, will broaden Georgia's tax base and create a better climate for job creation and retention.

GMA is supportive of tax policies which enhance the competitiveness of Georgia employers and businesses. The Special Council made sound recommendations to the Legislature – broadening the tax base, lowering the tax rate and eliminating sales taxes on business inputs required to produce and manufacture goods. We are particularly supportive of the proposal to exempt from sales taxes the fuel and energy used in manufacturing. We appreciate the Council's recognition that energy is an "input," and that all inputs to manufacturing should be exempt to prevent tax pyramiding.

Georgia manufacturing/ mining industries must compete not only with other companies, but within their own corporations for the capital necessary to keep their facilities viable. For too long, Georgia's sales tax on energy has put our manufacturers at a disadvantage compared with manufacturers in other states.

We thank the Special Council for its very professional approach to this important issue and we will support tax reform legislation which is substantially similar to the recommendations of the Special Council.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Lemke', written in a cursive style.

Lee Lemke  
Executive Vice President  
Georgia Mining Association