



2020 Legislative Update Budget Week – February 17, 2020

Budget Week

The General Assembly was in recess last week and will reconvene tomorrow, Tuesday, February 18 for Legislative Day 13 of the 40 day session. The purpose of the recess was to allow the House and Senate to have more time to hold hearings and meetings to dig deeper into the budget cuts proposed by Governor Kemp and to make any changes they feel are necessary for the budget. While minor changes are expected to the FY 2020 Supplemental Budget, we may see some significant alterations to the FY 2021 budget and the budget process may go down to the wire in this year's session. The only House committees that met last week were budget sub-committees but the Senate did hold several Committee meetings on other bills. We expect to see a considerable number of bills introduced when the legislature goes back in session tomorrow. The legislature will be in session Tuesday – Friday of this week.

Water:

Last week, we asked RBC Chambers to engage on an appropriations request that is before the General Assembly – the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (District) is asking for state funding in the FY21 budget.

You may recall that Katherine Zitsch, Director of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District spoke to the RBC about water issues and what the District does for the metro area. Since water resources are a core priority of the RBC, we felt this was an important issue for the RBC to engage on. The attached letter will provide background on the funding request and its significance to water management successes in our region and state. Please consider sending this letter to your legislators.

The Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC) is an organization of over a dozen of the largest and most active Chambers of Commerce throughout the metro Atlanta region. RBC member chambers represent over 15,000 member companies who employ millions of metro Atlanta residents. The RBC's primary goal is to represent the interests of RBC Chamber members on regional public policy issues impacting our transportation, water and air quality and to advocate for solutions that improve metro Atlanta's quality of life and economic vitality.