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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT:**

**Reaction to Report by the Georgia Competitiveness Initiative**

ATLANTA, GA (Friday, January 27, 2012) – 2020 Georgia is encouraged by several elements of the Georgia Competitiveness Initiative’s report, including recommendations that would encourage business growth, support infrastructure investment, promote global commerce and underscore the importance of education as solutions to Georgia’s long-term competitiveness.

Unfortunately, the team that framed the report failed to identify new revenue sources that would pay for their recommendations. In fact, the only actions mentioned would reduce revenues through various business tax breaks which would undermine the same vital services and resources that they purport to promote.

We understand the important role business plays as an engine of a strong state economy, but business tax incentives alone will not make. Businesses will not invest in Georgia if we do not make sustained infrastructure investments in comprehensive transportation and clean water or provide a quality education for our state’s people.

If the end-goal of the Competitiveness Initiative is to bring much needed new jobs to Georgia, this group has failed to articulate a funding plan to ensure the development of a qualified workforce. Yes, we must develop skilled workers; we agree with the Competitiveness Initiative on that. But the statement alone means little until we develop a balanced approach to our state’s economic plan, one that includes revenues that bring in enough money to pay the bills, invest in our future and make the choices that work for Georgia’s families.

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ABOUT 2020 GEORGIA: 2020 Georgia is a broad alliance of community leaders and organizations. Our common goal is to promote a balanced approach and revenue solutions that meet the short and long term needs of our state and its people. For more information, visit our website at [www.2020georgia.org](http://www.2020georgia.org).