



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Rep. John Lewis Responds to Governors' Inability to Reach a Water Agreement**

When the governors of Alabama, Florida and Georgia met with the U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne in November of last year, a February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline was set to encourage the states to develop an agreement that would help settle the water challenges of the region. The Governors announced today that they would not meet that deadline.

"I think the entire Georgia delegation," said Rep. Lewis, "on both sides of the aisle, is very disappointed that the Governors were not able to come to an agreement. They seem to be making an attempt to come to terms with a long-standing, challenging, but critical issue. I think members of Congress see the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure committee hearing requested by the entire Georgia delegation and scheduled for March 11 as another opportunity for the governors to come together and describe the nature of the issues they are confronting.

"The hearing will allow the American people and members of Congress to better understand their current obstacles, the steps these public officials are taking to ensure the preservation of this vital natural resource, and alleviate concerns about any future drought emergencies. The people who live in our region cannot survive without water. They want to be certain that every possible step is employed to ensure the security of this precious resource."

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