

# *The Coca-Cola Company*

COCA-COLA PLAZA  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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## **VIA E-MAIL**

Dear Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker David Ralston, Chairman Trey Kelley, and Members of the Georgia House of Representatives:

The Coca-Cola Company joins the Metro Atlanta Chamber in supporting Senate Bill 288 because it creates economic opportunity for all Georgians. Millions of Georgians are being left behind because currently our state's criminal justice system poses life-time barriers to employment, even long after someone has demonstrated their rehabilitation.

SB 288 will both reduce recidivism and help our state's economic recovery. Georgia has the highest rate of correctional control (people per capita in prison, jail, on probation or parole) in the nation. 4.3 million people have a Georgia criminal record—that is 40% of our state's adult population who face barriers to employment. Recent events have shined a light on racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and this bill provides some needed relief to those hardest hit by these injustices.

This bill also provides liability protection for companies. It will facilitate companies like ours in hiring returning citizens and will remove barriers for scores of Georgians who want to progress in their careers, provide better futures for their families, and contribute to their communities.

Forty-one other states have laws that allow people who have proven they are law abiding for a certain number of years to remove old convictions from their record. Despite Georgia's recent progress in other criminal justice reform areas, we lag behind on this issue. It's time for Georgia to join the rest of the country by providing a way forward for our returning citizens.

We urge the House to pass and Governor Kemp to sign SB 288 as it will bolster Georgia's reputation as a great place to do business and help us continue to attract and retain employers.

Sincerely,



Monica Howard Douglas  
General Counsel, Coca-Cola North America