



The following Press Release was written for Senator Bill Stephens during the 1999 legislative session.

## **Senator Stephens Announces First Recipient of the “Stuck Pig” Award**

*State Senator Creates Award For Worst use of State Tax Payer Dollars*

**ATLANTA** — State Senator Bill Stephens of Canton announced today the first recipient of an award he calls the “Stuck Pig Award.” The Senator, who grew up on a farm in North Georgia, says the idea for the award comes from the tendency of legislators and bureaucrats to “squeal like a pig stuck under a gate,” when someone questions the misuse of taxpayer dollars.

This award will be given periodically by Senator Stephens in an effort to highlight the questionable use of taxpayer dollars. The recipient of the award will receive a marble figurine of a pig squealing while it is stuck under a gate. The figurine is made of Georgia marble that was mined in Pickens County. With the presentation of the first award, a miniature figurine will also be given to Governor Roy Barnes, Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor, members of the State Senate, and the Capitol Press Corps.

The first “Stuck Pig Award” goes to an expenditure within the Department of Natural Resources F.Y. 2000 General Appropriations Act for \$50,000 of tax payer funds to be used “to provide for the construction of duck boxes.” These “boxes” will allegedly provide habitat for ducks on the Clark-Hill Reservoir on the Georgia/ South Carolina Border.

“Taxpayers need to know how their tax dollars are being spent. This is but a small example of the blatant misuse of funds within the \$13.5 billion budget we just passed,” Senator Stephens said. “Today, I am asking the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to place an immediate hold on the expenditure of these dollars and redirect those funds to a better purpose.”

Senator Stephens is a Republican Senator from the 51<sup>st</sup> district which includes Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, and Pickens Counties and portions of Cherokee County.