



Friday, December 22, 2023

LETTERS

Hidden injustices of being most business-friendly state

Regarding Bill Nigut's 'Scrooge-test' [AJC, 12/17/23] revealing Georgia's economic inequities, consider the following in light of our dubiously celebrated achievement of being America's most business-friendly state.

- Every year, some 240,000 Georgia households are disconnected from their electric service because they cannot afford paying their bill. Trying to pay those bills on deficient incomes can cause other cascading financial injustices, including loss of employment, medical care, education, and housing.
- Georgians living within the impact area of new industries are often obligated to pay higher taxes to cover rising costs of infrastructure required to support surging population, commercial development, housing, and traffic. Concurrently, water and air quality may decline, imposing costly threats to public health and the environment.
- Job-creation benefits, routinely touted by promoters of Georgia's industrialization, also deserve greater scrutiny. According to Oxfam America, Georgia ranks among the worst states for workers, due to a combination of low wages and poor workplace protections.

Georgia's business-friendly ranking is achieved with an under-compensated laborforce and other politically hidden economic injustices.

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