

Editors of The Brunswick News deserve credit for their forthright opinion published on November 16, recognizing the important work of the Georgia Water Coalition -- in particular the release of this year's "Dirty Dozen Report."

The actions and activities reported by the Coalition were carefully selected because they pose critical threats to the interests of citizens and taxpayers. Bringing such issues to the public's attention is vital to reducing or eliminating hazards to public water supplies and waterways.

Of special concern to the coast are proposed changes to marsh and shore regulations that will weaken important safeguards. If these regressive changes are adopted, certain marsh-front and shore-front projects that are now regulated will evade public review and well-justified legal controls.

At a time when the rate of sea-rise is accelerating, it's flagrantly negligent to reduce regulation of structures being built at the edge of coastal uplands. Now, more than ever, we need to be prudent about putting structures in harm's way, especially when such construction adds risks to neighboring areas.

Despite the importance of such issues to public interest, little has been said about the *Dirty Dozen Report* by either state agencies or the media. Undoubtedly many who should speak out are intimidated, preferring to yield to politically powerful development interests.

This is all the more reason why *The Brunswick News* editorial board deserves our respect for honorably recognizing the serious problems highlighted by the Georgia Water Coalition. All Georgians suffer when such threats to our natural resources remain unexamined.