[Date]

Dear Governor Deal/Senator [Name]/Representative [Name]:

I’m writing to express my concern with the current state of the Georgia Archives.

I understand that the state of Georgia faced serious budget shortfalls this year. These cuts have crippled the State Archives and its ability to serve the public and Georgia’s government. The Archives has already been forced to reduce staff and public services; if another budget cut occurs, the Archives may have to close its doors to the public, making important state and legal documents less accessible. The Georgia Archives now has the fewest number of open hours of any state archives in the nation. In fact, the Georgia Archives **was only open to the public for four days in the month of November.**

Secretary of State Brian Kemp has been vocal about the value of the holdings of the Georgia State Archives in settling land disputes. As the locus of legal accountability for the state, the State Archives budget cuts could have dire consequences for our government. Not to mention the continued disservice done to the public by losing access to this rich and valuable resource.

Please, consider the consequences of this decision and restore funding for the Georgia Archives in 2012.

Yours,

[Your Name]