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## **BOB BARR**

*Member of Congress, 1995 - 2003*

May 25, 2016

Dear Georgia Leader:

I write you as a fellow Georgian and voter concerned with improving our voting process. Specifically and respectfully, I urge you to take the time to learn more about and support the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact. In so doing, Georgia can place itself in the forefront of a serious move to ensure that the overwhelming imbalance in the current winner-take-all Electoral College is, at least to some meaningful degree, corrected.

Rest assured, the NPV Compact does not require any amendment to our cherished Constitution; nor would it undermine in any way the intent underlying the provisions in Article II regarding presidential electors.

The NPV Interstate Compact is simple and straightforward. It simply allows states to join together and, when enough states enter the compact totaling 270 electoral votes, on election night the votes in those states are then awarded to the candidate with the most popular vote IN ALL FIFTY STATES.

As you know, the Constitution is very clear under Article II Section 1 that the power to award electors resides with the states; and I and other supporters of the NPV Compact consider this one of the great ideals in the Constitution. State sovereignty and the right of the people to participate in the election process are among our most basic and valued rights. We should guard them jealously.

Unfortunately, and especially in recent election cycles under the current system of awarding electors, a handful of states get all of the attention of the nominees. These "swing states" receive millions of dollars collected in other states and spent by the candidates, thereby all but ignoring 40 of the

50 states. This certainly is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they envisioned the Electoral College and how it should work.

Making matters even worse, this imbalance is reflected *after* the elections, with “swing states” receiving preferential treatment (and, in many cases taxpayer monies) from the Administration through grants and other federal actions.

By way of historical background, 30 votes in 20 days by our country’s Founders ended with the power being granted to the states to award their electors “in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct...” Never in the discussions before, during or after the votes did those in attendance discuss a winner-take-all system that would ignore almost all of the states. Moreover, nowhere in the *Federalist Papers* was the winner-take-all system mentioned.

Having been a presidential candidate, and having served the people of Georgia in the U. S. House of Representatives for eight years, I respectfully urge you to contact your legislator at [www.nationalpopularvote.com](http://www.nationalpopularvote.com) and ask them to support passage of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Only when the election process is given back to all of the people of all of the states, will we be able to choose a President based on what is best for all 50 states and not just a select few.

Georgia has the chance to be one of the first to lead on this very important issue. I hope you will help us to make history.

Thank you for your consideration, and your help.

Very truly yours,



BOB BARR  
U.S. House of Representatives, 1995-2003