**CAMPAIGN SPEECH: ENVIRONMENT**

**FOR**

**CLYDE ELROD**

Hello everyone... I am Clyde Elrod and I am running for the United States Congress in Georgia’s Tenth Congressional District. As concerned citizens, with regard to environmental conditions, we see what is going on in the world and in our communities. There are a lot of things in life that we may have taken for granted in the past, but as we move forward and have the capability to be more aware and more informed, we cannot close our eyes to the shifts we are witnessing regarding the atmosphere in which we live. We may hear of conditions and catastrophes that are escalating throughout other parts of the world. We may read about facts and figures that don’t seem to have an impact on us personally, but the truth is that we live on **ONE** Planet Earth. As conditions shift on one continent or in the atmosphere, **we are all affected**. We hear of the burning of the Amazon Rain Forest and we may think... “So? How does that affect us here in Georgia?” We hear statistics that tell us that the Amazon acts as the “lungs” of earth, providing 20% of the oxygen in our atmosphere and the fires weaken that.... and that provides a threat to our own existence. We see that weather patterns are growing increasingly threatening.... with events like Hurricane Dorian being reported as possibly one of the... if not **THE** strongest storm ever... with winds recorded upwards of 225 miles per hour... we hear the data... we see the changes... and **still** we doubt that our way of life might ever be affected... not to necessarily quote the “Magic Eight Ball,” But **ALL SIGNS POINT TO YES**... We can no longer afford to keep our heads in the sand... pretty soon, that may be gone too...

According to an article on the website for the Environmental Protection Administration, “In the coming decades, Georgia will become warmer, and the state will probably experience more severe floods and drought. Even today, more rain is falling in heavy downpours, and sea level is rising about one inch every decade. Higher water levels are eroding beaches, submerging low lands, and exacerbating coastal flooding. Like other southeastern states, Georgia has warmed less than most of the nation during the last century. **But during the next few decades, the changing climate is likely to harm livestock, increase the number of unpleasantly hot days, and increase the risk of heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses**.” There will be no escaping the effects of a deteriorated environment unless we do something... **now**.

Our team supports legislation that would save our planet while saving taxpayer dollars for generations to come. We are also committed to preserving and increasing green spaces for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, fishing, hunting, and other types of environmentally supportive acts.

Our continued national dependence on fossil fuels is not sustainable and pushes us ever closer to point of no return. We are now entering a period of transition from tapping into easily accessible oil to attempting to reach more unconventional reservoirs that are much more costly to refine, from both an economic and environmental point of view. It makes good economic and environmental sense to begin transitioning to cleaner sources of energy now, including solar, wind, hydraulic, and nuclear. Every megawatt produced by clean sources of energy saves roughly 14,000 tons of coal per day. Ignoring the environmental cost of dirty energy sources is irresponsible and negligent not only of our own health but the health of future generations. (source: <https://www.e-education.psu.edu/eme801/node/486>). Employing and utilizing alternative energy sources also provides opportunity to build infrastructure, support new industries, and to establish new employment and revenue streams.

In addition to insuring a better, cleaner future for ourselves and our children, I believe that protecting lands designated as state and national parks and wildlife refuges will enrich our quality of life here in Georgia. These lands are important reminders of our history and heritage as a nation, they work to preserve biological diversity, and each environmentally supportive site that we endorse helps to create places of recreation and enjoyment. As your representative, I would fight for legislation to protect all of our iconic parks from development by corporate industry. Further, I would seek legislation to insure that money designated for, or collected by, the National Park Service is used responsibly and for the betterment of the parks and, as an extension, our environment.

For every year since 2014, I’ve held a national parks pass and a Georgia state park pass. My wife Anna and I love to explore these natural wonders and want to make sure that future generations can enjoy them!

As your Congressman, I will do everything in my power to advocate for all of us. I look forward to your support in this and all matters that affect the quality of life for our constituents, communities, and all of Georgia. Thank you!!