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Gerald Dial Supports Economic Development in Rural Alabama

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Senator Gerald Dial
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State Senator Gerald Dial says a bill to create a center for rural economic development that did not pass in the 2006 regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was aimed at benefiting political cronies, not helping rural Alabama.

"This bill was a misdirected attempt to spend approximately \$200,000 of taxpayer money to create another layer of bureaucracy that would have confused and misdirected efforts of local industrial development boards," explained Dial, who works closely with Rural Community Development Councils (RC&D) along with local soil and water conservation districts.

Dial was selected the most outstanding state senator by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 2004 and 2006. He stands committed to supporting the Alabama Development Office, but he explained, "This bill would have been a boon for political cronies, not rural Alabama."

"Economic development in rural Alabama is the lifeblood of small, rural counties," explained Dial. "We must continue to seek quality jobs for rural Alabama and I will continue my efforts in that direction." Dial has been a staunch supporter of programs for rural Alabama, including helping to create and provide funding for local industrial development board in his district. "I will not sit back and see your tax dollars wasted to create jobs to pay individual political debts."

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Senator Gerald Dial

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Dial, who is in his sixth term as state senator, represents a large number of rural areas in Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Lee, and Randolph Counties. He has also fought for more funding for rural firefighters and emergency first responders.

Dial says his local industrial development board members are pleased with the work of the Alabama Development Office and were skeptical of creating a new level of bureaucracy.

"I would never place politics above the needs we have in rural Alabama," said Dial. "And anyone who knows me understands my passion for helping rural Alabama."

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