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**GEORGIA TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 15TH 2017 PLASTIC POLLUTION AWARENESS DAY**

**Forsyth County teen, Hannah Testa, spearheaded this event**

**with Senator Michael Williams**

**CUMMING, GA, October 17, 2016 -** Local environmental activist, Hannah Testa, age 14, has partnered with a state senator to proclaim February 15, 2017 as Plastic Pollution Awareness Day throughout the state of Georgia. This event, believed to be the first of its kind nationwide, was conceived and spearheaded by Forsyth County’s resident environmental activist, Ms. Testa. Hannah, who founded the environmental organization Hannah4Change ([www.hannah4change.com](http://www.hannah4change.com)), worked with State Senator Michael Williams of the 27th District in Forsyth County to develop a resolution to be passed on this date that helps to educate Georgians about the growing crisis called Plastic Pollution.

“The aim is to make residents aware of the impact that plastic pollution has on our environment,” states Hannah Testa. “Not only does plastic end up on our streets, streams, and oceans, but also kills birds and sea animals and ends up in our food chain.” Her goal is to make citizens and businesses aware that simple shifts in our daily lives can greatly reduce the state’s plastic footprint. Hannah’s call to action is for Georgian’s to reduce consumption of single-use plastic products such as plastic bottles, straws, and bags on at least one day out of the year.

Hannah adds, “One of the easiest shifts to make is to use paper straws or don’t use straws at all.” Restaurants that switch to paper straws will be provided a window decal they can display to show consumers they care about the environment and what they put on the table. For consumers, there are several alternatives to plastic products that are much safer for our planet for consumers to utilize.

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To commemorate this day, Hannah is building a large quilt with hundreds of commitments from local residents and businesses on actions they will take to reduce single-use plastic products. This quilt, along with a 4 foot by 6 foot sculpture made out of plastic debris by ocean scientist Bonnie Monteleone, will be exhibited in the State Capitol along with Ms. Testa, Mr. Williams, and a host of environmental leaders across the nation and local businesses that support her efforts.

**About Hannah4Change:**

Hannah4Change was founded by award-winning local Georgia resident Hannah Testa to fight for issues that affect our world and all of its animals. Hannah is a 14 year old honors student who is passionate about animals and environmental issues that have an impact on wildlife. Hannah has presented to thousands of adults and children - as well as the Georgia Governor - on plastic pollution and practical ways residents can reduce their “plastic footprint”. She believes that knowledge is power and that through education and awareness, she can affect positive change. For additional information, please visit **[www.hannah4change.com](http://www.hannah4change.com)**.

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