

# Jon Ossoff

U.S. SENATE

*Saturday, December 26, 2020*

Dear Station Manager,

This letter serves to notify you that your station is currently airing a false advertisement paid for by Senator David Perdue's campaign committee Perdue for Senate.<sup>[1]</sup> The ad blatantly lies about David Perdue's record in the Senate and when Georgians can expect to receive much needed COVID-19 relief. To comply with FCC licensing requirements and to serve the public interest, your station should cease airing this false advertisement immediately.

In this ad, Senator Perdue attempts to deceive the public by claiming to have "delivered" \$900 billion in new stimulus relief and direct checks for Georgians. This claim is blatantly false. President Trump has not signed the legislation Perdue is touting. In fact, President Trump has consistently said he will not support the legislation, unless additional money is provided for larger stimulus checks. In a statement the President called the bill a "disgrace," adding:

"I'm asking Congress to amend this bill and increase the ridiculously low \$600 to \$2,000 or \$4,000 per couple."

As a result, media outlets, including your station, have reported that the bill is "in limbo,"<sup>[2]</sup> "at risk,"<sup>[3]</sup> and "stalled."<sup>[4]</sup>

To put it simply, David Perdue is taking an unwarranted victory lap on COVID-19 relief that does not exist and he is blatantly misleading the public to bolster his own reelection chances.

The ad also falsely accuses Jon Ossoff of having "obstructed" previous COVID-19 relief. This claim is demonstrably false and is once again an effort to mislead the public. Ossoff is not an elected official, and therefore could not have obstructed any COVID-19 relief. Ossoff moreover supported passage of this recent legislation and the prior CARES Act, and has called on David Perdue to pass additional relief to help Georgia families.

You have a responsibility to "protect the public from false, misleading or deceptive advertising" (Licensee Responsibility With Respect to the Broadcast of False, Misleading, or Deceptive Advertising, 1961). A failure in this area to prevent the airing of "false and misleading advertising" may be "probative of an underlying abdication of licensee responsibility" that could put your station's license in jeopardy (*Cosmopolitan Broadcasting Corporation v FCC, 1978*).

As this ad is unquestionably false and misleading, with the intention of deceiving your viewers, we ask that you immediately cease airing it on your station.

Sincerely,

Ellen Foster,  
Jon Ossoff for U.S. Senate Campaign Manager

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<sup>[1]</sup> Perdue for Senate, <https://host2.adimpact.com/admo/viewer/e5e8349d-3309-41ab-8966-c5e1b4bf7677/>

<sup>[2]</sup> Politico, <https://www.politico.com/states/florida/story/2020/12/23/complete-clusterf-trump-leaves-washington-in-limbo-1350462>

<sup>[3]</sup> Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump/coronavirus-aid-at-risk-as-us-lawmakers-block-trumps-changes-idUSKBN28Y12O>

<sup>[4]</sup> Associated Press, <https://fox8.com/news/2000-direct-payments-or-nothing-president-trump-says-he-wont-sign-current-covid-relief-package/>