



# Vote YES on HB 1289

## Protect Our Okefenokee

*the Wild Heart of Georgia*

The future of our Okefenokee is at risk because of Twin Pines Minerals, LLC. This Alabama-based company is proposing to mine titanium adjacent to the swamp. The mining operation threatens the health, safety, and economy of Southeast Georgia and the wildlife of the Okefenokee. All for a mineral that can be mined elsewhere.

## The Okefenokee Needs Our Safeguards

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The Okefenokee Swamp is a 438,000-acre state treasure, the largest blackwater swamp in America, a National Wildlife Refuge, and a designated Wetland of International Importance. In the 1990s, [Georgia leaders spoke out against DuPont's proposal to mine next to the Okefenokee](#), and the Georgia Board of Natural Resources agreed, declaring that mining could cause irreparable, long-term damage to Georgia's beloved swamp.

The heavy mineral sands containing titanium can be found far beyond the sensitive ridge that forms Okefenokee - in coastal plains and islands from Florida to Virginia. [Trail Ridge titanium is not necessary for national defense](#), but will likely be processed into a substance used to make pigments for paint, sunscreen, and food additives.

## We Need Your Leadership - Vote YES on HB 1289

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[Protection for this area under federal law is unclear](#). Regardless, Georgians shouldn't have to rely on the federal government to protect our valuable and irreplaceable Okefenokee. We need your help:

- 1 Tell EPD and Director Dunn to deny permits to Twin Pines Minerals, LLC.
- 2 Pass HB 1289 to permanently protect the swamp from this and other risky mining proposals.



# Support the Local Economies and Stop Bad Actors

Mining adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp threatens the economies of surrounding communities that rely on the swamp for tourism. Mining in such proximity to the swamp will degrade the wilderness and dark sky experience, which are major draws for the [600,000+ annual visitors](#) to the National Wildlife Refuge.

This will diminish the swamp's economic benefit for Southeast Georgia.

Homeland, Kingsland, St. Marys, and Ware County have [passed resolutions](#) asking state officials to protect their communities' livelihoods.



Twin Pines and their associates have, at best, behaved unprofessionally in recent history...

They falsely claimed mineral rights in federal and state permit applications.

They tried to side-step compliance with Charlton County permitting required for land disturbance activities.

Twin Pines Minerals is managed and financed by the same people who operate a facility in Madison County where EPD had to step in to stop harmful activities, including the burning of creosote-soaked railroad ties.

## Prevent Wildfires and Health Hazards

[The US Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and multiple independent experts have warned that Twin Pines' proposal would destroy the structural integrity of Trail Ridge, which forms the eastern boundary of the swamp. Combined with the proposed use of [1.44 million gallons of water needed daily](#) to operate the mine, this [will lower water levels](#) in the swamp and surrounding areas.



### Impacts of Lowered Water Levels:

- [Increase fire risk](#) to the swamp and nearby private property, including timber and blueberry farms
- Release of stored toxic heavy metals, including mercury, which will be carried downstream, impacting public health
- Degrade fishing and recreational opportunities in the St. Marys and Suwannee Rivers, which originate in the Okefenokee

## Protect the Wild Heart of Georgia

The Okefenokee is world-renowned for its biological diversity. Mining along trail ridge could compromise the habitat the swamp offers endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpeckers, wood storks, and eastern indigo snakes.

49 Species of Mammals

39 Species of Fish

64 Species of Reptiles

233 Species of Birds

600 Species of Plants