

# PROTECT OUR OKEFENOKEE

## PASS HB 71

*The Wild Heart  
of Georgia*



Sponsored by over half of the Georgia House of Representatives, the Okefenokee Protection Act (HB 71) provides critical protection for this vital natural area of the state.



The Okefenokee Protection Act is limited in scope. It prevents future mining on a very specific, very narrowly defined area of Trail Ridge. This mixed sand ridge forms the eastern boundary of the Okefenokee. Protecting Trail Ridge from risky mining is critical to ensuring water flows to the Okefenokee as it has for millennia.



The Okefenokee is so critical to the regional economy that half a dozen local communities have passed resolutions urging its protection.



According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, mining on Trail Ridge risks disrupting the natural flow of water to the Okefenokee and area streams. Lower water levels and drier vegetation increases the risk during droughts of more frequent and severe wildfires in the National Wildlife Refuge and on surrounding private property.



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