BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

OKEFENOEKE SWAMP DAY

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is blessed with the unrivaled beauty of the Okefenokee Swamp, the largest blackwater wetland in North America; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee Swamp is recognized as one of Georgia’s seven natural wonders and a natural area unique not only to the State of Georgia, but also to the United States of America and the world; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is being considered for nomination as an internationally recognized natural area for United Nations World Heritage Site designation; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee Swamp spans 438,000 acres with 93 percent of it protected as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, including 333,000 acres designated as a National Wilderness Area by Congress; and

WHEREAS: Georgia’s Stephen C. Foster State Park lies within the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and is designated as an International Dark Sky Park; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee Swamp hosts more than 650,000 visits by Americans and international tourists to Georgia on an annual basis, generating upwards of $64.7 million annually for the economies of Ware, Clinch, and Charlton Counties and creating some 750 swamp tourism-related jobs; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trail is part of the National Water Trails System, and anglers and tourists visit repeatedly, seeking a true wilderness experience; and

WHEREAS: The Okefenokee Swamp has inspired countless Georgia naturalists, artists, and writers and gave us our very own state opossum, Pogo Possum; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2022 as OKEFENOEKE SWAMP DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
CHIEF OF STAFF