



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### OKEFENOKEE 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 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 353,000 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 OKEFENOKEE 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*M. K. [Signature]*

CHIEF OF STAFF