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Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019



Environmental Protection Division  
Watershed Protection Branch  
Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program  
Suite 1152 East  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Dr., Atlanta, GA 30334.

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to communicate our business' support for elevating the protection classification of rivers in South Georgia from "fishing" to "recreational," in an effort to protect our natural resources. Considering that our product is 98% water, which we purchase from the City of Valdosta, we are very interested in that water's quality. As we understand, the coastal plain containing the Suwannee River Basin is porous limestone, containing all our drinking water. What gets into our rivers can get into our drinking and brewing water.

All the rivers in the Suwannee River Basin are currently in the lowest Georgia quality classification, which is Fishing. This means state limits on pollution are less strict for our rivers. They all need to be reclassified as Recreational, since people use them all the time for boating, swimming, and diving, as well as fishing.

Georgia also currently has laxer water quality standards for November through April than for the rest of the year. This makes no sense here where people fish and boat on our rivers year-round; and we brew beer year-round.

Your consideration of our organization's humble opinion is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Jones  
Director of Business Development / Founder  
Georgia Beer Co.