

16 responsibilities of each generation as public trustees of the Okefenokee Swamp for  
17 succeeding generations; and  
18 (2) Trail Ridge is a key element in the formation and continued existence of the  
19 Okefenokee Swamp. It shapes the hydrology of the area and controls drainage of the  
20 Swamp to the Atlantic Ocean. Trail Ridge contains heavy mineral sands, resulting in two  
21 major surface mining proposals in the past 25 years. The people of Georgia as well as  
22 state and national leaders overwhelmingly rejected the first proposal. Surface mining on  
23 Trail Ridge risks adverse impacts to the wetlands, water quality and quantity, wildlife  
24 habitat, air quality, and wilderness values of the Okefenokee Swamp. As a danger to the  
25 future of the Okefenokee Swamp, Trail Ridge mining impacts the cultural heritage of  
26 indigenous peoples of the area, as well as the historic heritage of the people and  
27 communities whose existence has been shaped by the swamp.

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
30 relating to surface mining, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:  
31 surface mining, is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

32 "12-4-85.

33 The director of the division shall not issue, modify, or renew any permit or accept any bond  
34 to conduct surface mining operations on the geological feature known as Trail Ridge  
35 between the St. Marys and Satilla Rivers for any permit application or permit amendment  
36 submitted after July 1, 2022."

37 **SECTION 3.**

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.