



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 162305 · Atlanta, Georgia 30321 · phone: 1-800-209-3337 · DEERASSOCIATION.com

Governor Brian Kemp
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

27 April, 2023

RE: Support for Georgia Senate Bill 115

Dear Governor Kemp:

On behalf of the National Deer Association (NDA), I am writing to provide our comments in support of Georgia Senate Bill 2862 (SB 115), which the Georgia General Assembly recently passed and sent to your desk for signature. We are a national non-profit conservation organization with the mission to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. We represent thousands of members nationwide, including hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals in Georgia.

SB 115 solidifies the long-held position that the state of Georgia serves as trustee of its peoples' rights to use and enjoy all navigable streams capable of use for fishing, hunting, passage, navigation, commerce, and transportation, pursuant to the common law public trust doctrine. Importantly, the unique and unrivaled North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is founded in the public trust doctrine, which ensures that that our nation's, and Georgia's, natural resources, including fish and wildlife, are held in trust by the states for our benefit and for the benefit of our children, their children and so on.

Please consider joining the NDA in supporting this important legislation. Georgia's publicly-held natural resources, including the use of navigable waters for fishing, hunting and accessing lands for the same pursuits, belong to all Georgians – not just adjacent, private landowners. Access to navigable waters and public lands are vital to ensuring that Georgia anglers, hunters and outdoor recreators can continue to connect to the fish, wildlife, lands and waters that make the state unique. The future of these pursuits depend on it.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have, or for more information, regarding our position on this or similar legislation.

Sincerely,

Torin Miller
Senior Director of Policy