



March 21, 2024

Senator Matt Brass
Chairman, Georgia Senate Committee on Rules
453 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: House Bill 1172 – Navigable Streams

Position: Oppose

Dear Chairman Brass and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

We respectfully encourage you to not advance House Bill 1172 to maintain access for anglers and hunters on Georgia's navigable streams. House Bill 1172 undercuts legislation signed into law in 2023 (Senate Bill 115) which codified 160 years of common law that provides access to navigable streams held in the public trust for Georgia's citizens to fish and hunt. Maintaining access to navigable streams for fishing and hunting is critical to carrying on Georgia's sporting traditions, and we ask that you please do not support House Bill 1172.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

House Bill 1172 would create ambiguity for Georgia's hunters and anglers that depend on stream access, and the legislation would prohibit sportsmen and women from pursuing their quarry in traditional manners. For example, duck hunters would be in violation of the law if they touched the stream bottom when setting decoys, and shoal bass anglers would no longer be able to cast a line if wading in certain areas of a stream, which would be difficult or near impossible to delineate

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

visually. If House Bill 1172 is signed into law, there would be a significant loss of access for hunters and anglers to the detriment of Georgia's outdoor sporting heritage.

In closing, CSF strongly opposes House Bill 1172, and we urge you to oppose the legislation to ensure that the hunting and fishing traditions that depend on access to navigable streams will continue to be enjoyed by Georgians.

Sincerely,



Conner Barker
Coordinator, Southeastern States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
cbarker@congressionalsportsmen.org

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation