



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Matt Brass
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee
453 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Senate Bill 478; Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act

Position: Support

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

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 478 which would reauthorize the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (Program) through 2039 and increase the amount of funds that the General Assembly may appropriate to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund (Fund) as defined statute (O.C.G.A Title 12, Ch. 6A).

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.

Senate Bill 478 seeks to reauthorize an existing mechanism, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, that continues to successfully invest in the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, which has benefited Georgia's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists since 2019. Under current law, the Fund is authorized to receive up to 80% of all moneys received by the state from the sales and use tax collected on outdoor recreation equipment under the North American Industry Classification Code 451110. However, the General Assembly may only appropriate 40% of the above-mentioned money collected to the Fund each year. Senate Bill 478 would increase this appropriation cap to the currently authorized 80% as laid out in existing statute, further investing into protecting and acquiring lands critical to wildlife, clean water and outdoor recreation across Georgia.

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The already proven and successful Program has allowed Georgia to continuously increase the scale of conservation work on both private and public lands without creating new taxes or increasing current taxes. Additionally, the Program does not increase hunting or fishing license fees for Georgia's nearly 2 million paid hunting and fishing license holders. By reauthorizing the Program and increasing the annual appropriation by two-fold as allowed under current law, Georgia will continue to significantly invest in conservation funding and reap still greater returns.

In closing, we respectfully encourage you to support Senate Bill 478 to reauthorize a long-standing program that has allocated over \$142 million in funding across 74 projects and will continue to further invest in wildlife conservation efforts in Georgia for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Conner Barker".

Conner Barker
Senior Coordinator, Southeastern States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
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