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OPINION

LETTERS

Okefenokee threatened by state's business-friendly standards

Georgia's prolonged status as most business-friendly state raises troubling questions about trade-offs made to achieve it.

The foolhardy recklessness of Georgia's pro-business fixation is underscored by heated disputes over the Twin Pines mining proposal at Trail Ridge, which directly threatens the world-renowned Okefenokee Swamp. In a written statement, a hundred well-qualified scientists have testified about the unacceptable risks: "Mining close to the swamp has a high likelihood of causing permanent damage" to the Okefenokee.

Engineering solutions to prevent various destructive impacts of the project on the swamp are claimed, but such methods are unproven and prone to unexpected failures. Yet, thanks to Georgia's business-friendly blind-eye, state officials appear ready to put the Okefenokee in needless jeopardy, just to strip-mine titanium, among the most commonly found minerals. The cavalier marginalization of serious hazards to this world-class environmental treasure is tragic testimony to the abject failure of Georgia's outdated economic-development standards.

To prevent irreversible damage to the Okefenokee a new vision for Georgia's economic future is imperative.

David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Saint Simons Island
912.689.4471