



Thursday, February 8, 2024

OPINION

LETTERS

Marshland Heist Bill Must be Opposed

HB370, now in the General Assembly, would undermine the longstanding requirement for private landowners to prove that they possess a "King's Grant" to secure benefits of Georgia marshland conservation easements.

But HB370 outrageously shifts this burden-of-proof onto the state. If passed and signed into law, the bill would award conservation easements to private owners of adjacent uplands making claims to King's Grants if state officials cannot disprove them within six months.

Once granted by default under HB370, these unproven claims can then be used by dishonest applicants to dodge taxes by getting credits for conservation easements on marshlands for which there's no proof that they own.

HB370 is a brazen, unjustified entitlement-grab by unscrupulous marshfront property owners seeking unsubstantiated tax credits, forcing the public to make up the difference.

Voters are urged to contact members of the General Assembly House and Senate - particularly the House Rules committee - to stop this outrageous, unwarranted claim on treasured marshlands that belong to the people of Georgia.

~ David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast