

Resolution 2024-_____

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE OKEFENOKEE
SWAMP AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION BY THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HAMILTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County takes pride in its rivers, including the Suwannee River to the east and south; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Hamilton County value the natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by the Okefenokee Swamp and the Suwannee River and their watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Swamp is a unique natural, cultural, and economic treasure known worldwide, identified as an Aquatic Resource of National Importance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a National Natural Landmark, a National Wilderness Area, and a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention; and

WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Swamp is the headwaters of the St Marys River and of the Suwannee River, famous worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River forms the eastern and southern boundaries of Hamilton County for more than eighty miles; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County hosts several Suwannee River access points, demonstrating commitment to recreation on the Suwannee River through various initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Commission has shown commitment to water quality and waterway recreation through the approval of the Comprehensive Plan, providing protections for the Suwannee River and its watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the citizens value the Okefenokee Swamp and the Suwannee River for water quality and habitat protection; and

WHEREAS, the environmental impact of strip mining in proximity to the Okefenokee Swamp raises significant concerns for the watershed; and

WHEREAS, thorough and unbiased review processes are crucial in assessing the potential environmental consequences of mining activities; and