

Senate Resolution 818

By: Senators Anderson of the 24th, Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th, Echols of the 49th, Dickerson of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Commissioner Walter Rabon as the recipient of the 2026 Conservation
2 Trailblazer Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Dallas Safari Club, whose mission is to ensure the conservation of wildlife
4 through public engagement, education, and advocacy for well-regulated hunting and
5 sustainable use worldwide, has named Georgia Department of Natural Resources
6 Commissioner Walter Rabon as the recipient of the 2026 Conservation Trailblazer Award;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, this prestigious award recognizes wildlife professionals whose work has
9 significantly advanced conservation, applied research, habitat stewardship, and
10 forward-looking policy; and

11 WHEREAS, Commissioner Rabon has devoted decades of service to conserving Georgia's
12 natural resources, beginning his career in 1993 as a Conservation Ranger and rising through
13 the ranks of the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division before
14 faithfully serving as Deputy Commissioner from 2015 to 2023; and

15 WHEREAS, in August 2023, he was appointed Commissioner by the Board of Natural
16 Resources and assumed responsibility for guiding the state agency charged with protecting
17 and enhancing Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources for present and future
18 generations; and

19 WHEREAS, his leadership has strengthened access to the outdoors, empowered youth and
20 new participants, and advanced meaningful initiatives such as the DNR Career Academy and
21 Outdoors Beyond Barriers, expanding conservation education and outdoor recreation
22 opportunities for individuals of all abilities; and

23 WHEREAS, this recognition reflects Commissioner Rabon's steadfast leadership, lifelong
24 commitment to stewardship, and the collective dedication of the Georgia Department of
25 Natural Resources team.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 recognize Commissioner Walter Rabon as the recipient of the 2026 Conservation Trailblazer
28 Award and express sincere appreciation for his decades of exemplary service to the
29 conservation of Georgia's natural resources and the benefit of its citizens.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Commissioner
32 Walter Rabon.