



JIMMY CARTER

November 7, 2019

To Leslie and Bart

Thank you to the Trustees of the Georgia Conservancy for honoring me with the 2019 Distinguished Conservationist Award. I wish I were able to be with you this evening and am grateful to have had a role, along with many others, in helping to ensure that the Georgia we know and love has a multitude of protected places like the ones you've seen on screen tonight.

My thoughts on conservation are grounded in a lifelong love of the natural wonders of Georgia and our responsibility to pass on the land, water, and forests in a better condition than we inherited them. Growing up on a farm, I understood the protection of the earth was the individuals' responsibility and that we must carefully manage and enhance nature rather than degrade or waste it. I am proud to have had the opportunity to share these ideals with the Georgia Conservancy. Their leadership in environmental preservation, protection, and policy enactment was helpful to me as State Senator, Governor of Georgia, and then President of the United States.

In 1967, the Charter Members of the Georgia Conservancy committed time, money, and work toward the quality of life in this state, seeking to change prevailing attitudes about our environment and natural resources. 52 years on, the Georgia Conservancy's work and its challenges continue as the threats to our environment are unceasing.

Future generations of conservation leaders must remember that we are stewards of a precious gift, which is not an unpleasant duty but rather an exciting challenge. It is my hope that you help ensure the vision of a Georgia and a planet where people and the environment thrive and invest in the Georgia Conservancy's ability to continue making a critical difference.

We must safeguard our land so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy fresh water, clean air, scenic mountains and coasts, fertile agricultural lands, and healthy, safe places to live and thrive. Thank you again, and best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Carter".

Trustees of the Georgia Conservancy
c/o Ms. Leslie Mattingly, Chair, and Mr. Bart Gobeil, President
The Georgia Conservancy
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