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April 17, 2008

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
The Office of the Governor
State of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Purdue,

The Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) is a not for profit membership based association of recreation professionals from throughout the state of Georgia. Our 2000+ members are responsible for providing an overwhelming majority of the recreation programs in each and every community in our state.

Our membership has watched with horror as HB89 has made its way through our legislative process. The possibility of permitting licensed concealed weapon permit holders to carry their firearms into park settings where our children and adults are playing concerns us, as an organization greatly. **Our elected Board of Trustees and our elected State Athletic Committee have both voted to ask you to veto HB89 for the safety of our parks and our participants.** Parental passion runs high in a youth sports environment and to introduce legalized firearms into this arena is a disaster waiting to happen. Very few professionals in our field have not had confrontational situations in our programs where, if a gun had been present, the results could have been deadly.

Please put the best interest of all Georgians who participate in recreational settings first and veto HB89!

Sincerely,

Jimmy Gisi, CPRP
Executive Director

cc: GRPA Board of Trustees

GRPA State Athletic Committee

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