



AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION

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2015 – Georgia Senate Bill 129

FOR RELEASE

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The American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) is strongly committed to the values of inclusion, diversity, and acceptance of all people in the sport of rowing. For the past four years, we have held our national collegiate rowing championships at the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue from the 1996 Atlanta Games. In May 2014, the ACRA Championship drew over 1500 athletes from 63 colleges and universities from across the United States to Gainesville for three days of competition.

We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community for our sport in the Gainesville/Hall County region. We eagerly look forward to our 2015 ACRA Championship held on Lake Lanier, the fifth to be held there, on May 23- 24, 2015.

Gainesville, Hall County and Lake Lanier have become a home to ACRA rowing. In addition to our national championships, a number of ACRA programs also come to Gainesville for weeklong winter and spring training trips in preparation for the national championships. We have unfailingly been greeted with friendliness and hospitality by local government, civic organizations, business owners and local citizens.

Over the past two years, our sport has provided \$2 million of economic impact to the region, and we look forward to continuing that mutually beneficial relationship.

However, we are deeply concerned with legislation being considered by the Georgia General Assembly (Senate Bill 129) that could negatively impact our athletic community, coaching staff, and fans. In particular, we are cognizant of the impact such legislation could have on the LGBT coaches, athletes and family members who attend the regatta annually. ACRA does not stand for discrimination in any form, and we will continue to monitor the issue in Georgia should this legislation be signed into law.

ACRA is composed of collegiate club rowing programs in the United States, and it exists to provide a yearly national championship regatta for its member programs. ACRA is administered by an executive board consisting of active coaches of ACRA programs