

House Resolution 743

By: Representatives Dobbs of the 53rd, Taylor of the 55th, Ashe of the 56th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Riley of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Mini America Park, an educational and environmental
2 green initiative in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, continuous improvement in education is paramount to the future of the United
4 States of America and the State of Georgia; over the next ten years, nearly half of all new
5 jobs will require instruction that goes beyond a high school education while as many as a
6 quarter of students are not finishing high school in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, as environmental sustainability and green initiatives are necessary for us to
8 conserve global resources utilized in our economy and daily lives, we need to support the
9 development of new products, services, and technologies and reduce our individual and
10 commercial carbon footprint in the process; and

11 WHEREAS, it is important for all citizens and corporations to realize the importance of good
12 stewardship for our planet; citizens should be informed and corporations should be actively
13 involved to take on the challenges that we face in our future; and

14 WHEREAS, there are corporations investing millions of dollars to stimulate green initiatives
15 and individuals who are working in concert with these organizations to implement their
16 vision to incorporate entertainment, education, and energy; and

17 WHEREAS, Eric Alexander de Groot is a global educator and entrepreneur and the founder
18 of the Holland America Chamber, dedicated to economic development between Holland and
19 America; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States' partnership with the Netherlands is one of its oldest
21 continuous relationships and dates back to the American Revolution. The excellent bilateral
22 relations are based on close historical and cultural ties as well as a common dedication to
23 individual freedom and human rights. The United States attaches great value to its strong

24 economic and commercial ties with the Dutch. In 2007, the Netherlands was the
25 fourth-largest direct foreign investor in the United States, and the United States was the
26 second-largest direct foreign investor in the Netherlands; and

27 WHEREAS, the Holland America Chamber is a main sponsor of Mini America, an
28 educational and environmental "park with a purpose" focusing on education, environmental
29 sustainability, and energy and the past, present, and future of America, featuring famous
30 United States tourist destinations, attractions, and landmarks all in miniature, where you can
31 walk from New York City to Los Angeles or Atlanta to Seattle and see all of America in
32 miniature at a scale of 1:24; and

33 WHEREAS, nationwide, there are about 400 amusement parks in the United States and they
34 welcome more than 300 million people and generate \$12 billion in revenue annually; the
35 development of Mini America in Georgia will substantially contribute to the economy of the
36 State of Georgia, boost tourism, and support the local hospitality industry; and

37 WHEREAS, the Mini America Park concept is based on 40 other miniature indoor facilities
38 and outdoor parks around the world, cumulatively welcoming close to 250 million visitors,
39 and of which the Madurodam theme park facility near The Hague in the Netherlands alone
40 has hosted 50 million people since 1952; and

41 WHEREAS, the management team of Mini America Development has extensive experience
42 in the fields of finance, real estate, education, energy and environmental sustainability,
43 communication, marketing, human experiences, and other knowledge; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Maarten Kuik of the Euram Investment Group is actively involved in
45 private equity placement and responsible for the investment of millions of dollars of foreign
46 direct investment in real estate in the State of Georgia and the Southeast; and

47 WHEREAS, John Bevilaqua is a communications and marketing specialist who has worked
48 for decades with the International Olympic Committee and is the founder of Patriotism
49 Rocks, an organization whose credo is "Honor the Past and Invest in the Future"; and

50 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerhard Frank in Vienna, Austria, is an entertainment scientist and author
51 of *The Science of Human Experiences* and *5d Principles of Staging* specializing in the
52 development and construction of museums, science centers, zoos, aquariums, visitor centers,
53 theme parks, and related facilities; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. de Groot, as the chair of the Mini America Concept Committee, together
55 with Rob Aldrich, Reinhardt Carison, Eli Pele, and LaVay Sheldon, has worked tirelessly to
56 ensure that the Mini America Park will be developed in the State of Georgia. This committee
57 is not only overseeing the concept, it is actively advancing the importance of American
58 history, products made in the United States of America, and promoting the importance of
59 patriotic investments; and

60 WHEREAS, the Mini America Park will not only stir the fires of patriotism and remind
61 Americans and visitors from all around the world of the beauty and accomplishments of the
62 United States, but also inspire participation in the future of our great nation and stimulate
63 enterprise and entrepreneurs for the generation of jobs.

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
65 the members of this body recognize the Mini America Park, an educational and
66 environmental green initiative in Georgia, and commend its many founders, organizers,
67 contributors, and leaders for their vision and diligence in making this goal a reality.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
69 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Nathan Deal,
70 Ambassador of The Netherlands to the United States, Mrs. Renée Jones-Bos, Honorary
71 Consul of The Netherlands for the State of Georgia, Mr. Ewoud Swaak, and Mr. Eric
72 Alexander de Groot.