

House Resolution 1076

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Network in  
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Network intends to  
4 be an independent full-time sports, "edutainment," and lifestyle network devoted entirely to  
5 the four HBCU conferences, their members, and others; and

6 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network is aligned with the White House Initiative on HBCUs and  
7 expects to receive written support from President Barrack Obama's administration; and

8 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network will be based in Georgia, with its primary offices in  
9 Atlanta, employing Georgia residents and engaging other Georgia based business in network  
10 operations; and

11 WHEREAS, the HBCUs, several of which are located in Georgia, shall be equity partners  
12 in the network and also benefit financially from annual rights fees; and

13 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network intends to launch in the Fall of 2011, filling a space  
14 currently unaddressed by others and becoming the destination channel for alumni, current  
15 and prospective students, and sports fans interested in top Black college sports,  
16 "edutainment," and lifestyle programming; and

17 WHEREAS, all four sports conferences and ESPN have documented their intention to  
18 support the HBCU Network as soon as it has secured a distribution agreement with Comcast  
19 Corporation; and

20 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network has already begun to develop non-sports programming with  
21 top African American celebrities who have committed to lending the network their presence  
22 and performance; and

23 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network expects Comcast Corporation and Cox Communications,  
24 Inc., to be early distributors of the network; and

25 WHEREAS, distributors of the network in Georgia and elsewhere shall enjoy the benefits  
26 of programming desirable to their subscribers and income from the sale of local advertising  
27 to be aired in association with the network; and

28 WHEREAS, support for the HBCU Network has already been expressed by several key  
29 constituents in public and private sectors and include the United Negro College Fund,  
30 Thurgood Marshall Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus, National Urban League, Magic  
31 Johnson Foundation, and a host of civic, political, celebrity, and community leaders.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body recognize and commend the Historically Black Colleges and  
34 Universities Network for its efforts to operate a business that will employ Georgia residents,  
35 program a network that will focus on and raise awareness of HBCUs, engage other Georgia  
36 based businesses in its efforts, provide distributors of programming in Georgia with desirable  
37 content, and otherwise enhance the lives and experiences of Georgia residents and  
38 businesses.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Historically Black  
41 Colleges and Universities Network.