

## House Resolution 745

By: Representatives Rogers of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>, and Bonner of the 72<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Lee Thomas as the Georgia Trend 2019 Georgian of the Year for her work in  
2 attracting and growing the motion picture and television industry in Georgia; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Lee received a Bachelor of the Arts in Radio, Television & Film from  
5 University of Georgia, earned a master's degree in Film Studies from Georgia State  
6 University, and attended the Tisch School of the Arts Doctoral Program in Cinema Studios  
7 at New York University; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1996, Lee joined the then Georgia Film & Videotape Office of the Georgia  
9 Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism as a project manager, was later promoted to  
10 director in 2011, and continues to serve today as the deputy commissioner of the Georgia  
11 Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office; and

12 WHEREAS, during her tenure at the department, she has promoted Georgia locations, crew,  
13 talent, and communities to thousands of motion picture and television productions, including  
14 *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, *Sully*, *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil*,  
15 *Footloose*, *Fast 5*, and *Zombieland*; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2008, the department worked closely with Governor Perdue's office, the  
17 Georgia General Assembly, and the Georgia film industry to update and improve the  
18 "Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act"; and

19 WHEREAS, the state of Georgia is now the No. 1 production center in the world with more  
20 than \$9.5 billion in economic impact in FY18, up from an economic impact of just \$250  
21 million in FY06; and

22 WHEREAS, in FY18, it was announced that more than 455 entertainment productions chose  
23 to produce their projects in Georgia with direct expenditures of \$2.7 billion; and

24 WHEREAS, these projects represent every major studio and network, including Disney's  
25 Marvel Studios, HBO, Netflix, Tyler Perry Studios, 20th Century Fox, NBC, the Hallmark  
26 Channel, ABC and Paramount Pictures, and Cartoon Network; and

27 WHEREAS, the result of this growing sector, Georgia's film and television workforce has  
28 grown to more than 91,100, with \$4.6 billion in wages, and an average salary of \$84,000; and

29 WHEREAS, communities across Georgia are seeing significant benefit from the economic  
30 impact of the television and motion picture industry through the Camera Ready Community  
31 Program created in 2010; and

32 WHEREAS, more than 13 new purpose-built studio/stage facilities have opened in Georgia  
33 since 2010 along with hundreds of small businesses providing equipment, transportation  
34 support, post-production, animation services, financial services, and more; and

35 WHEREAS, stunning Georgia locations from the North Georgia Mountains to Atlanta to  
36 small town Main Streets to the coast can be seen on theater screens, network and cable  
37 television stations, and electronic devices every day and night of the week, positively  
38 impacting Georgia Tourism; and

39 WHEREAS, Lee Thomas is dedicated to growing the state's entertainment industry, and  
40 increasing the number of new jobs and investment for the citizens of Georgia, thereby  
41 making Georgia a better place and well deserving of such an honor as Georgian of the Year.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 the members of this body commend Lee Thomas on being named the Georgia Trend 2019  
44 Georgian of the Year.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Lee  
47 Thomas.