

By: Representative Summers

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 191

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING DR. CINDY AYERS
2 ELLIOTT FOR BEING NAMED *USA TODAY'S* 2023 WOMAN OF THE YEAR HONOREE
3 FOR MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, from New York investment banker to Mississippi
5 farmer, Dr. Cindy Ayers Elliott is *USA TODAY'S* 2023 Woman of the
6 Year honoree for Mississippi, a truly outstanding honor; and

7 WHEREAS, launching in 2022, *USA TODAY'S* Woman of the Year
8 program is a recognition of women across the country who have made
9 a significant impact, and a continuation of Woman of the Century,
10 a 2020 project that commemorated the 100th anniversary of women
11 gaining the right to vote; and

12 WHEREAS, as CEO of Foot Print Farms, Dr. Ayers Elliott's goal
13 is to provide healthy food options, and educate Mississippians on
14 how to better feed themselves, as well as how to provide for
15 themselves through urban agriculture; and

16 WHEREAS, Foot Print Farms is a 68-acre specialty crops,
17 vegetables, and livestock farm, with a focus on agri-tourism for
18 community development in the City of Jackson, dedicated to growing



19 an array of fruits and vegetables, raising meat goats, and cattle,
20 and Dr. Ayers Elliott believes that planting seeds in the earth
21 will grow fresh vegetables, however, planting a seed in the minds
22 of young people will create a new universe of scholars; and

23 WHEREAS, after working five years as CEO for Delta
24 Foundation, Delta Enterprises in economic development in the
25 Mississippi Delta, Dr. Ayers Elliott also worked many years in New
26 York as an investment banker, and she participates with the United
27 States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
28 Conservation Service (NRCS), to ensure her farm is productive and
29 environmentally friendly, and while she depends on her farms for
30 sustenance, she also aims to use them as an educational tool for
31 people not accustomed to new ways of farming; and

32 WHEREAS, considered a rock star in the world of business and
33 agriculture in Mississippi, Dr. Ayers Elliott is the recipient of
34 the Mississippi Business Journal Top 50 Businesswomen in
35 Mississippi, and established the 2nd Freedom School Summer Program
36 in Washington County, Mississippi, and she is a proud member of
37 the George Washington Carver Future Scientist of America 4-H Club,
38 and was presented with the Jackson State University College of
39 Business Department of Entrepreneurship Women Entrepreneurs Award;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, living every day to be a catalyst for change, Dr.
42 Ayers Elliott was also awarded the Outstanding Minority Business
43 of Central Mississippi, from the Mississippi Minority Business



44 Alliance, Inc., in October 2014, and was elected as Chairman of
45 the Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District in September
46 2014; and

47 WHEREAS, outside of her remarkable career and community
48 involvement, Dr. Ayers Elliott takes great pride in being a
49 graduate of Jackson State University, and is the proud mom of
50 LaGrand and Eric Elliott, and the grandmother of Christian, Erica,
51 Zoe and Skylar Elliott; and

52 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
53 recognize extraordinary Mississippians such as Dr. Ayers Elliott,
54 whose tremendous dedication to agriculture education and passion
55 for community service brings honor to the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
57 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
58 recognize and commend Dr. Cindy Ayers Elliott for being named the
59 *USA TODAY's* 2023 Woman of the Year honoree for Mississippi, and
60 extend to her our most sincere wishes for continued success in all
61 her future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
63 furnished to Dr. Cindy Ayers Elliott and to the members of the
64 Capitol Press Corps.

