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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For almost ten years, it has been my honor and privilege to represent the people of Habersham and White County in the Georgia House of Representatives. It has been an amazing experience and some great things have been accomplished. During those years, Georgia has been named the number one state in the nation for business seven straight years, unemployment is the lowest ever in our states history, and we've helped create close to 850,000 new private sector jobs. Our education system has been fully funded through QBE, our prison and judicial system is the model for the nation, and we've seen tax cuts passed that impact every Georgian in a positive way. We've protected the life of the unborn, strengthened our Second Amendment rights, and helped to preserve Northeast Georgia's conservative values. It truly is a great time to be a Georgian!

But, the time has now come for me to step away and go in a different direction. After much prayer and many talks with family and friends, I have decided not to seek reelection this year. This has been one of the hardest decisions I've ever made, but in my heart I know it is the right one. There are many different ways to serve and as I finish out my term this year, I will be exploring those opportunities. One of those will be to continue in my role as Chairman of the Governors Film, Music, and Digital Entertainment Advisory Commission. It is a big responsibility and also time consuming, however I am looking forward to the challenge.

There are many people to thank. First, to God for giving me this opportunity to serve. To my wife Laura and our family for your constant love, support, and patience. To my many friends for your encouragement and guidance. I specifically want to thank Governor's Nathan Deal and Brian Kemp as well as Speaker David Ralston for their guidance, mentoring, and most of all, friendship. They are amazing leaders who have set Georgia on the right path, and have given me the opportunity to work with them and to participate in their vision for our state. To my colleagues in the House, we truly are family. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of something very special. To the people of the 10th district, words can't express my appreciation for allowing me to represent you. You truly are the best people in Georgia.

As I finish out my term, I only offer one bit of guidance for those who are serving or seeking to serve. The first motto of the colony of Georgia was "Not for self, but for others". James Oglethorpe set a guideline we would all be wise to follow.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. God bless the United States and our great state of Georgia.