



Contact: Lauren "Bubba" McDonald
Phone 404-463-6746
www.psc.state.ga.us

Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 800-282-5813

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

2-17

FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER LAUREN "BUBBA" MCDONALD

McDonald Says House Bill 479 Would Mean No Solar in Georgia

ATLANTA, February 24, 2017 – Georgia Public Service Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald says House Bill 479, sponsored by State Representative Don Parsons of Marietta, would forbid the Public Service Commission from amending an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) as filed by Georgia Power Company every three years. As required by law since 1992 (O.C.G.A §46-3A-1), the IRP is the utility's long-range plan for and forecast of the state's electric power needs for the next three years.

"If this bill had been law in 2013, there would be no solar power in Georgia Power's portfolio. If this bill had been law in 2016, we would not have the addition of 1,200 megawatts (MW) of solar and 300 MW of wind procured at no upward pressure on rates," said Commissioner McDonald. "There would be no innovative projects such as the pilot solar demonstration project by "The Ray" along the Interstate 85 corridor near LaGrange, Georgia to be completed by 2019. We would not have an additional 200 MW of self-build renewable capacity to develop renewable projects at Robins Air Force Base and Fort Benning. We would not have 3 MW of self-build community solar by Georgia Power," added McDonald.

Commissioner McDonald notes the addition by the Commission of solar energy resources in Georgia has taken place with no upward pressure on rates. "The economic impact of solar has made Georgia the nation's leader in solar energy. This proposal would actually harm ratepayers by not allowing the Commission to make sure that all energy resources in the IRP are cost effective and prudent."

Commissioner McDonald is in his third term on the Commission, having been appointed and elected in 1998, and re-elected in 2008 and 2014. His full biography can be found at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/lauren-mcdonald-jr/?tab=2>.

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a five-member constitutional agency that exercises its authority and influence to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies. For more information on the Commission visit our web site at www.psc.state.ga.us .

###