



**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**

**4-17**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER LAUREN "BUBBA" MCDONALD**

### **McDonald Applauds Passage of Nuclear Waste Resolution by Georgia State Senate *Urges Georgia Congressional Delegation to Pass Nuclear Waste Legislation***

ATLANTA, March 29, 2017 – Georgia Public Service Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald applauds the passage of Senate Resolution 407 which urges Georgia's Congressional Delegation to enact legislation to re-establish a Nuclear Waste Program per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NPWA) of 1982. The resolution will be delivered to Georgia's representatives in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

"Georgia electric ratepayers have contributed over \$1.6 billion to the Nuclear Waste Fund since 1982 with nothing to show for it," said Commissioner McDonald. "The federal government through the Department of Energy has failed to meet the mandate of the NPWA to start accepting spent nuclear fuel in 1998."

Under the NPWA, the Department of Energy (DOE) applied for a license to store the spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain Nevada, but in 2010 the DOE filed an application to terminate the project. McDonald noted that in 2013 the D.C. Circuit Court ruled in 2013 that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must resume the processing of the DOE Yucca Mountain license application.

The Commission unanimously approved a similar resolution at its February 7, 2017 Administrative Session.

Senate Resolution 407, sponsored by Senators David Shafer, Frank Ginn, Ben Watson, Steve Gooch, Larry Walker III and Dean Burke, passed the Senate on March 28, 2017. The full text of the resolution is found at <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SR/407>.

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](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) .

###