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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Commissioners Meet with Georgia Congressional Delegation to Express Views on Pending Energy Legislation**

**Atlanta**, July 23, 2009 – Public Service Commission Chairman Doug Everett along with Commissioners Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr. and Stan Wise traveled to the nation’s Capitol Wednesday to voice their concerns to Georgia’s Congressional Delegation about the pending energy and climate legislation, known as “cap and trade,” which will dramatically increase Georgian’s utility bills in the coming years. “Unless this legislation is modified and revised, Georgians could see their electric utility bills go up by as much as \$66 a month by 2020,” said Everett.

“Ultimately, we want to find a way to sculpt a bill that has less impact on Georgians,” Commissioner Stan Wise told the delegation members. Commission Vice-Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr. said, “We were pleased with the reception afforded us by members of Georgia’s Congressional Delegation and will continue working with them through the legislative process.”

Among the several key areas of concern brought to the Delegation’s attention:

- **Allocations:** Restricting, limiting and auctioning of allocations will increase rates to ratepayers. Delaying the phase out of allocations and beginning the auctions at a later date will give technologies time to develop to meet these requirements, mitigating impacts to customers.
- **Dates and Caps:** Requirements in the bill do not match with the timing for development of new technologies. Reducing requirements in the early years to allow technology time to develop.
- **Price Collar:** Legislation should include provisions for a floor and ceiling for carbon prices. This would protect ratepayers by reducing uncertainty of prices in buying and selling carbon credits.
- **Offsets:** Offsets are needed in the first 10 to 15 years because technologies will not be developed for utilities to meet the requirements in the bill. The bill discounts many of these offsets, limiting their value. If climate change and CO2 emissions are a world problem, international offsets should not be discounted. Also, other restrictions should not be placed on offsets. An offset is an offset.

- **Preemptions:** There should either be a regulatory solution or a legislative solution. Not both. Having to meet a legislative requirement and comply with environmental regulations by EPA and EPD will create uncertainty in planning and increase the cost to the ratepayer.

The members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation who met with the Commissioners were: Representatives Phil Gingrey, Lynn Westmoreland, Nathan Deal, Paul Broun, Sanford Bishop, Hank Johnson, and David Scott. Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss were represented by staff members due to ongoing legislative committee hearings.

More information on the Commission can be found on the Commission web site, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

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