



Contact: Doug Everett

Phone 404-463-6745

Fax 404-656-2341

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

**From the Office of Commissioner Doug Everett
NEWS RELEASE**

33-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioner Doug Everett Urges FCC to Slow Down on Intercarrier Compensation Fee Reform *Could Cripple Telephone and Internet Service in Rural Areas*

Atlanta, October 30, 2008 – In a strongly worded letter to Chairman Kevin Martin of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Georgia Public Service Commissioner Doug Everett urged the FCC to “slow down and proceed with caution” on proposed rules that would change the way telecommunications companies are compensated for calls across another company’s network.

“I believe the FCC could soon inflict serious damage on telephone and internet service in rural areas across the country,” Everett said. He noted that the FCC is scheduled to vote on its proposed order on Tuesday, November 4, on Election Day, “while the rest of the country is focused on other matters.”

Everett said the FCC proposal could erase \$500 million in revenues for mid-sized rural companies that provide voice and broadband service. He noted that one telecommunications company in Georgia affected by the plan serves more than 530,000 homes and businesses.

“A revenue drop of this magnitude would force these companies to take corrective action by slashing spending and sharply raising consumer rates,” Everett said. He called on the FCC to publish the proposed rules in the Federal Register so that all parties can have a full and open debate and understand the consequences before moving forward.

Commissioner Everett has served on the Public Service Commission since 2003 and was the first Republican elected to the Commission from southwest Georgia. He served three terms in the Georgia legislature before his election to the Commission. His full biography is available on the Commission website at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/pscinfo/bios/everett.asp>

###



Commissioner Doug Everett