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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER LAUREN "BUBBA" MCDONALD, JR.  
NEWS RELEASE**

### **Commissioner McDonald Briefs Federal Officials on Georgia Progress in Solar Energy**

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2014— Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr. (R-Habersham County) briefed White House energy advisors this week on the Georgia Public Service Commission's approval of additional solar power generation capacity into the state's electric system without placing upward pressure on rates or using ratepayer subsidies. The Commission last year approved an additional 525 Megawatts of solar capacity in Georgia Power's 2013 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). This decision brings the total solar capacity that will be on line in Georgia by the end of 2015 to 800 Megawatts.

"I was quite pleased with the discussion with these energy policy advisors at today's meeting. I related to them that with the support of my colleagues on the Commission we have been able to provide for additional capacity using solar power while maintaining conservative principles," said McDonald, "with no upward pressure on rates and no subsidies. I hope this meeting is the beginning of a constructive dialogue between this Commission and the White House on how to implement renewable energy sources in a responsible and conservative fashion."

Joining Commissioner McDonald in the Washington meeting was fellow Commissioner Tim Echols (R-Bogart). White House officials taking part in the briefing were Rohan Patel, Associate Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality; Dan Utech, Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change; Bob Simon, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Rick Duke, Associate Director for Energy and Climate Change; and Franz Hochstrasser, Deputy Associate Director for Public Engagement, Council on Environmental Quality.

Commissioner McDonald is in the final year of his six-year term on the Georgia Public Service Commission. He was elected in 2008. He was first appointed to the Commission in 1998 and served until 2002. Prior to serving on the Commission he spent 20 years in the Georgia House of

Representatives where he chaired the Appropriations Committee for eight years. See his full bio at: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/lauren-mcdonald-jr/?tab=2>. Commissioner Echols bio is found at: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/content.aspx?c=/commissioners/tim-echols/?tab=2>

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