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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS**

#### **Echols to display his personal CNG car at Capitol**

**When: Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 1pm**

**Where: 244 Washington Street (in front of PSC building)**

ATLANTA - Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm outside the Public Service Commission offices, Commissioner Tim Echols will display his Honda Civic that runs exclusively on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the media and other interested parties.

In December, Echols purchased a used 1999 Honda Civic sedan. Echols says his car has an average range between fill-ups of 180 miles. Echols paid \$3000 for the car and believes his new ride will give him great service as he drives between his home in Athens and the Capitol. "Most people don't know that CNG cars can drive in the HOV lane with just the driver," said Echols. "This benefit alone should motivate frustrated commuters to consider CNG as an alternative fuel."

Georgia currently has only two public fueling stations providing CNG services, both of which are in the south metro area of Atlanta. Echols has refilled his Honda at both stations, run by Clean Energy and PS Energy.

"I have always felt the best way to lead is by example, if at all possible," said Echols. "It's one thing to encourage investment in alternative energy, but being able to speak from personal experience may enable me to convince other public officials to do the same thing." Echols said he believes that many officials will be interested because CNG is an American resource and that most of our national trade deficit is because of foreign oil.

Atlanta Gas Light Company, one of the two gas utilities regulated by the Georgia PSC, has a proposal currently under review at the PSC where the utility would install refueling equipment at public stations operated by private companies. Funds would be dispensed from the state's natural gas universal service fund based on criteria to be established by the PSC. In addition to building fueling infrastructure, AGL's announced program would include a low cost leasing option for individual customers and small businesses to install home refueling appliances at their residences or places of business. The AGL proposal will be voted on by the Commission in March.

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