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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Commission Kicks off Lifeline/Linkup Awareness Week in Georgia *Governor Issues Proclamation*

ATLANTA, September 8, 2011 –The Georgia Public Service Commission is kicking off Lifeline Link-Up Awareness Week as part of a national effort to raise awareness among Georgians about this tremendous benefit. Governor Nathan Deal joined Commission Chairman Stan Wise, Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr., Commission staff and representatives from the Georgia Telephone Association and AT&T in proclaiming September 12-18, 2011 as Lifeline Linkup Awareness in Georgia.

“We want to get the word out during Lifeline Link-Up Awareness Week about this valuable benefit which can save qualified telephone customers hundreds of dollars yet keep them connected to the telephone network,” said Wise, “As valuable as this benefit is, we know there are thousands of Georgians who are not taking advantage of it.”

Lifeline provides a monthly credit of up to \$10 off your monthly local service telephone bill (AT&T gives a \$13.50 monthly credit) while Link-Up assists with paying up to 50% of installation costs, not to exceed \$30 (AT&T pays 100% of installation costs). Lifeline also covers cellular telephones.

As of June 30, 2011, there are 492,376 Georgians who are receiving this credit. While this number represents a dramatic increase over the past three years, there are thousands more who could qualify but are not signed up. In fact, as many as one million Georgians may be eligible.

In order to qualify for these programs, a consumer must be a participant in any one of the following programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TNAF), Food Stamps, senior citizens discount from power or gas company, SSI, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Eligible consumers should contact their prospective or current telephone service provider to find out if they offer Lifeline/Link-up credits and if so, to file an application to receive Lifeline or Link-Up assistance. Consumers may apply the discount towards either their home phone or cell phone service.

Lifeline/Linkup Week is a joint effort with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Affairs (NASUCA.)

For more information, visit the Commission web site at www.psc.state.ga.us.



Participants (left to right): Bill Edge, PSC public information officer; John Silk, Georgia Telephone Association; Commissioner Stan Wise; Governor Nathan Deal; Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr.; Pat Wingo, AT&T; James Gibson, PSC Manager of Consumer Affairs

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