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## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

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**For Immediate release**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**From the Office of Commissioner Tim Echols**

### **Commissioner Tim Echols Holds Summit with Georgia Charter Bus Companies**

ATLANTA, June 9, 2011 –Commissioner Tim Echols today hosted representatives from more than two dozen charter bus transportation companies and the City of Atlanta Bureau of Taxis and Vehicles for Hire in order to explore ways to better protect Georgia consumers from illegal or “rogue” operators. “Charter companies that operate without the proper insurance and certification not only put their passengers at risk but they hurt legitimate businesses run by hard working families throughout our state,” said Commissioner Echols. “It is my hope that by building this relationship with our legitimate transportation companies we can better educate local law enforcement, school principals, fraternities, sororities, youth pastors and many others who charter buses to ensure that they are using companies who are registered with the Public Service Commission. All of us at the Commission are concerned with the safety of Georgians and are working hard each and every day to ensure that these individuals and organizations are protected.”

Under current Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §§ 46-7-2, 46-7-3, 46-7-85.3, 46-7-85.4 and 46-7-12) all passenger carrier companies that fall under the Commission’s authority and operate within the state are required to be registered and have proof of insurance on file with the Commission. A list of the licensed companies can be found on the Commission’s website:

(For limo companies) <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/limodata.asp>

(For bus companies) <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/transportation/BusCompanyData.asp>

John Keys with the Georgia Motor Coach Operators Association said, “We are concerned about illegal motor coach operators endangering the public health and safety on the highways. We are very excited about building a relationship with the Commission. We are interested in a level playing field and safe operations for all folks being transported in the state of Georgia,” Keys added.

Bill Sambdman, President of Sambdman Trailways in Atlanta said he hopes this meeting is the first step in cracking down on illegal motor coach operators. “We appreciate the Commission helping our business take care of business,” Sandlin added.

Jeff Green with GCL Coaches of Atlanta said illegal operators do a disservice to the people of Georgia. “We are excited that the PSC and Commissioner Echols are taking an interest in this issue. We very confident and excited that the Commission along with the Georgia Department of Public Safety are going to start enforcing regulations that pertain to the motor coach industry.”

Commissioner Echols is the newest member of the Georgia Public Service Commission, having been elected statewide to a six-year term in November, 2010. His complete biography is at <http://tiny.cc/y5ktq>. The Commission web site is [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

For more information on the Commission, visit our web site at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

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