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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For Immediate Release**

**34-11**

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

#### **Commissioner Echols to visit Brunswick Solar Site and conduct “Lunch and Learn” on Alternative Fuel**

**Who:** **Tim Echols—Public Service Commissioner**, State of Georgia, host and facilitator who commutes in CNG Honda Civic from Athens to Atlanta.

**What:** Press Event at Parker’s Gas Station (Hwy 341 and I-95) followed by “Lunch and Learn” at Captain’s Joes next door.

**When:** Friday, June 3, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Parker’s Convenience Store, 5411 New Jesup Hwy, Brunswick  
June 3, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Captain Joe’s Restaurant, back room, 5296 New Jesup Hwy, Brunswick (Dutch treat)

ATLANTA – June 1, 2011 – Commissioner Tim Echols with the Georgia Public Service Commission will be hosting a short press event at a Parker’s convenience store in Brunswick to highlight the solar canopy installed by the company. Echols, who has solar thermal on his house in Athens, will discuss the benefits of solar for both residential and commercial customers and discuss the future of solar for Georgia. He will be joined by Woody Woodside of the Glynn County Chamber and Patrick Parker, owner of the store. Other invited guests include: Billy Russell, Fleet Manager at the Federal Law Enforcement Center, Dr. Charles Patterson, VP of Research at Georgia Southern, Rick Smith, owner of Kash Gas and Coastal Energy (propane distributor), Sean Sandow owner of a bio-diesel pickup, Ed Jones, owner of Deep South Meter and Service Company (propane conversions and propane autofueling equipment), Gail Smith, Communications Director of Sustainability for Georgia Pacific, Dennis O’Connor, partner at Energy Centers of America (company who installed the panels), and leadership from the Coastal Regional Commission, which has just secured a fleet of Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles.

“This event brings together policy makers, businesses involved with clean energy, and those who actually use this technology each and every day,” said Echols, who himself drives a CNG car. “It is my hope that we can show the general public, corporate community and media that alternative energy can mean jobs and economic development for our state.”

Patrick Parker and his brother Greg, from Savannah, own a total of 35 convenience stores throughout the region. "I am willing to invest \$1 million into this," said Patrick Parker, who owns 11 convenience stores. "The only obstacle that's keeping solar energy from spreading more widely is the cost, which continues to drop. I would love to see it become a zero sum game, where we are producing as much energy as we use with our solar panels."

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).

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