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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For Immediate Release**

**40-11**

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

### **SOLAR EXPRESS TO TAKE OFF JULY 29, 2011 IN SOUTHWEST GEORGIA**

**Who:** Tim Echols—Public Service Commissioner, State of Georgia, host and facilitator

**What:** Solar Express via the S.A.M. Shortline

**When:** Friday, July 29, 2011 9 a.m. to 5:05 p.m.

(Any member of the media will be allowed up to four tickets for family and friends in the VIP car. Call Cheryl at 404.656.4515 to order tickets. Supplies are limited.)

ATLANTA – June 30, 2011 – Commissioner Tim Echols with the Georgia Public Service Commission will be hosting the Solar Express for a fun packed and information day about solar energy and options for alternative energy. Displays will be set up in the premium car to provide educational materials. During the stop in Leslie there will be an opportunity to tour the Rural Telephone Museum. The first solar battery Installation for the Bell Company was in Sumter County on October 4, 1955 with the installation being used to power rural telephone lines. The Dixie Chapter of the Georgia Telephone Pioneers erected a marker in 1961 and the solar panel is on display in the Georgia Rural Telephone Museum in Leslie, Georgia.

“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.”

#### **Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Introduction and program at Georgia Veterans State Park (legislators can speak for 1 minute)

9:30 a.m. Depart Georgia Veterans State Park

10:05 a.m. Leslie (55 minute layover) and tour of telephone museum and first solar site in GA

11:00 a.m. Depart Leslie and lunch on train (at your own expense)

12:45 p.m. Arrive Plains (two hour layover)

1:15 p.m. Solar Supply Chain program at Carter Historic Site Auditorium

2:00 p.m. Sight-seeing in Plains

2:45 p.m. Depart Plains (Enjoy Solar Displays in Americus Car)  
5:05 p.m. Arrive Georgia Veterans State Park

For more information and to order tickets go to: [www.samshortline.com](http://www.samshortline.com) (click calendar) or call 1-877-GA-Rails

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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