5 Things You Need to Know about Georgia’s Energy

When you think about larger expenses that you incur, energy in some form is on the list: electricity, natural gas, petroleum—they add up. Here are five things you need to know about Georgia’s energy that can impact you in the future.

#1
Pending Environmental Protection Agency Rule 111(d). Without a doubt, nothing will impact our energy future more than the proposed EPA rule set to be finalized next year. The rule treats carbon dioxide as a pollutant, and requires each state to reduce their carbon output from fossil plants. Georgia’s reduction is a hefty 48 percent, making it the seventh most stringent state target in the nation. State leaders, especially commissioners like Chuck Eaton and Stan Wise, have urged the EPA to give Georgia more “carbon credit” for the new nuclear reactors aforementioned. Others have reminded the EPA that our pine forests also deserve credit for helping to mitigate greenhouse gases because of absorption. Expect the rule to have tremendous impact, with the potential to place significant upward pressure on rates.

Those are my top five energy concerns for now. Let’s hope my colleagues on the Public Service Commission along with other state leaders can continue to keep Georgia’s energy inexpensive and reliable.

Tim Echols serves on the Georgia Public Service Commission.