

MEDIA RELEASE

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For More Information

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Georgia Watch adds more energy, technology expertise

Southface Director, Forecast Earth anchor join watchdog's board of directors.

ATLANTA – The Georgia Watch Board of Directors voted today to add two members to the current panel that includes consumer guru Clark Howard and former Gov. Roy Barnes. Dennis Creech and Natalie Allen were carefully selected based on their expertise in energy efficiency, energy policy and cutting-edge energy efficiency technology. Creech and Allen will provide guidance for Georgia Watch's Consumer Energy Program, which is led by former Public Service Commissioner and Georgia Watch Deputy Director Angela Speir.

Dennis Creech is a co-founder of Southface Energy Institute, a nonprofit organization providing education, technical assistance and research in energy sustainable technologies and applied building sciences. Creech has served as executive director for 30 years and has fostered programs in residential and commercial green buildings, sustainable development and energy policy.

As member of the multi-platform Climate Initiative team at the Weather Channel, Natalie Allen anchors Forecast Earth, the weekly climate news program that addresses the importance of sustainable living. Allen has 23 years experience in broadcast journalism, having worked at some of the most prestigious and respected news outlets in the country, including NBC, MSNBC and CNN.

“Georgia Watch is building one of the most knowledgeable and influential nonprofit boards in the state,” said Georgia Watch Executive Director Allison Wall. **“Each and every consumer program at Georgia Watch is supported by deep expertise on the board, and Mr. Creech and Ms. Allen are certainly well-known and respected across the country.”**

Both Creech and Allen will work closely with Speir and the new Consumer Energy Program. The Program works to ensure that consumers have a voice on energy issues that impact their bills and the environment.

“I’m honored to work with Dennis and Natalie.” Speir, senior director of the Consumer Energy Program, said. **“Both are widely admired for their professional accomplishments and expertise. Their knowledge and contribution to the Consumer Energy Program will be invaluable.”**

The Georgia Watch board also welcomed a new board chairperson, former state senator Charlie Tanksley (R-Marietta). Tanksley succeeds Gov. Barnes, who served the organization as board chairman from 2006 through 2008.

“The organization flourished under the leadership of Governor Barnes,” Wall said. She continued, **“We take seriously our mission and charge to be nonpartisan, and could ask for no better continuation of strong, pro-consumer leadership than former Republican senator Charlie Tanksley.”**

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Founded in 2002, Georgia Watch is a non-profit, nonpartisan 501-(c)(3) watchdog group focusing on consumer education and research in the areas of health care, insurance and personal finance.