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Georgia Property Rights Council Commends State Senate Passage of Solar Power Free- Market Financing Act of 2015

Atlanta, GA – Today, the Georgia State Senate passed House Bill 57 by a unanimous vote where it now moves to Governor Nathan Deal for his signature. HB 57 allows homeowners, businesses, local governments, military facilities, churches, schools and non-profits of all types fair access to free-market financing of solar equipment that will help all Georgians lower the cost of solar power for use on their premises. This landmark legislation enables Georgia's families and taxpayers a straightforward way to save money while improving both private and public energy security. The Georgia Property Rights Council (GPRC) fully supports this legislation because it does all this by protecting the personal liberties of all Georgians simply by guaranteeing that all citizens remain free to make their financial decisions as they choose. The passage of this conservative and fiscally responsible legislation marks a great day in Georgia legislative history. Georgia's legislators should be commended for their wisdom and prudent leadership on this issue of property rights.

The bill is a product of more than a year of negotiation and compromise with all of Georgia's electric utilities, including Georgia Power, the 51 EMCs and the 49 MEAGs that make up

Georgia's electric utility sector who worked along with the Georgia Solar Energy Industries Association and the Georgia Property Rights Council to reach a consensus. This legislation is also supported by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, as well as employers and members of the construction industry.

Leadership on this issue came from bill author Rep. Mike Dudgeon (R – John's Creek) who said, "We have worked together to craft a bill that protects property owners rights and the needs of the energy industry. Most important, the average Georgian that takes advantage of this financing opportunity will see their power bills decline so it's fiscally responsible as well."

Robert (Bobby) Baker, former Republican Georgia Public Service Commissioner commented, "This has been a long process with numerous parties providing their input into the legislation, but thanks to the leadership of Rep. Mike Dudgeon and the support of Senator Gooch, Chairman Parsons and Rep. Geisinger, we made it."

"We were pleased to work closely with many stakeholders, including Rep. Dudgeon, the Govt. Affairs Director of Ga. SEIA, Mr. Jason Rooks, and all the electric utilities in Georgia in crafting sound compromise language for the legislation. This has been a total team effort. In addition, the utilities were truly willing to sit down and negotiate fairly, and all worked for a solution that truly benefits the future of all Georgians," said Mike Haun, President of GPRC.

For further information, please go to www.georgiaproperyrightscouncil.org.

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