

## COMPLAINT FORM

Alleging a Violation of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act

JURISDICTION: This office has jurisdiction ONLY in matters involving financial disclosure, campaign finance, and lobbyist disclosure. O.C.G.A. §45-1-6 covers state vendor disclosure law as outlined in the Campaign Finance Act in O.C.G.A. Title 21-5 et seq and O.C.G.A. §45-1-6 covering state vendor disclosure law. Please ensure that your complaint is within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Mail or hand delivery original signed/notarized form and attachments to above address.

<b>I. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT = COMPLAINANT:</b>						
<b>Name:</b>	William Perry, Georgia Ethics Watchdogs					
<b>Address:</b>	1146 Dobbs Dr SE					
<b>City:</b>	Atlanta	<b>State:</b>	GA	<b>County:</b>	DeKalb	<b>Zip:</b> 30316
<b>Telephone:</b>	678-358-6966	<b>E-mail (optional):</b>	watchdogwilliam@gmail.com			

<b>II. PARTY AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT = RESPONDENT:</b>						
<b>Name:</b>	Charles M. Eaton, Jr. and Eaton for PSC					
<b>Address:</b>	3567 Ranier Dr					
<b>City:</b>	Atlanta	<b>State:</b>	GA	<b>County:</b>		<b>Zip:</b> 30327
<b>Telephone:</b>	404-816-0961					
<b>Title of office held or sought:</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	Public Service Commission, District 3					

<b>III. STATEMENT OF FACTS:</b>
<i>State the actions of the Respondent upon which your complaint is based along with an ALLEGATION that such facts constitute one or more violations of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act. See JURISDICTION above. Include relevant dates and the names and addresses of other persons who you believe have knowledge of the facts and attach any documentation/evidence that support the facts alleged in this complaint. Please see § 21-5-6.23 regarding attorneys' fees.</i>
See attached
(If continued on other side or additional paper, please check here <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> )

**IV. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION – ORIGINAL NOTARY & SIGNATURES REQUIRED**

STATE OF Georgia COUNTY OF: Fulton

I, the undersigned Complainant, being duly sworn, depose (affirm) and say that the information in this Complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Notary Stamp/Crimp: Sworn to and subscribed before me on 16 October 2021.  I AM NOT, in filing this complaint acting as an agent, paid or otherwise, for any other person.

Signature of Complainant: William Perry

Signature of Notary Public: Nancy G. Sandberg

My Commission Expires: 16 Sept. 2021 DATE: 10/16/18

**PENALTIES:** False Swearing: A person to whom a lawful oath or affirmation has been administered or who executes a document knowing that it purports to be an acknowledgment of a lawful oath or affirmation commits the offense of false swearing when, in any matter or thing other than a judicial proceeding, he knowingly and willfully makes a false statement under Code Section 16-10-71. A person convicted of the offense of false swearing shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.



**Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission  
Eaton Complaint, 10/15/2018 – Statement of Facts  
Submitted by William Perry, Georgia Ethics Watchdogs**

**Part Three: Statement of Facts**

I believe that current Public Service Commissioner and candidate for Public Service Commission Charles Eaton with his campaign committee Eaton for PSC violated the Ethics in Government Act and Rules of the Commission, and I ask the Commission to investigate the following:

In 2017 and 2018, a total of 63 violations representing \$73,000 in campaign contributions were not properly identified as being from regulated entities, as is required by law (see attached).

Specifically Georgia law (21-5-30.1.d) states:

(d) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to prevent any person who may be employed by a regulated entity, including a person in whose name a license or lease is held, or who is an officer of a regulated entity from voluntarily making a campaign contribution from that person's personal funds to or on behalf of a person holding office as an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a candidate for the office of an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a campaign committee of any such candidate; provided, however, that: (1) The elected executive officer or candidate receiving one or more campaign contributions described in this subsection shall in his or her disclosure report under Code Section 21-5-34 separately identify each contribution and the total of contributions which he or she knows or should have reason to know are described in this subsection.

Further, Electric Membership Cooperatives meet the definition of a "regulated entity," see O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.

Under the strictest possible interpretation of this Code--failure to identify contributions from individuals currently on the payroll or serving as directors of an electric utility, natural gas or telecommunications company regulated by the Public Service Commission--at least 53 violations totaling \$64,550 occurred. I have labeled those as Tier 1 violations in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

However, considering the full spirit of the Code expands the total violations and must be considered. In many instances, ex-executives of regulated entities are no longer employed by a regulated entity, but they are still viewed publicly as professional representatives of a regulated entity and receive compensation from said entities (i.e., retirement benefits, pensions, etc.). I have labeled those Tier 2 violations in the attached document, and there were at least 10 violations totaling \$8,450.

The campaign finance reports used to gather this information are the reports dated 2/7/18, 5/17/18 and 9/19/18.

Candidate	Contributor	Occupation/Employer	Date	Tier 1	Tier 2	Comments
Eaton	Fail, Dorothea	Homemaker	10/18/2017	\$ 6,000.00		Actually owner of Fail Telecommunications
Eaton	Batson, Bryan	Senior Vice President, Southern Company Gas	10/24/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Pierce, Shannon	VP External Affairs, Southern Company Gas	10/24/2017	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Duvall, Robert	VP Customer Operations, Southern Company Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Evans, Andrew	CEO, Southern Company Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Linginfelter, Hank	EVP, Southern Company Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Reese, Elizabeth	EVP and CFO, Southern Company Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Sutton, Jack	SVP, Southern Natural Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Weaver, David	VP External Affairs, Southern Company Gas	10/25/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Horne, William	Director, Southern Company Gas	10/26/2017	\$ 250.00		Represents regulated entities before the commission
Eaton	Caudill, Mark	Attorney, Self	10/28/2017	\$ 2,500.00		
Eaton	Hewitson, Steve	Partner, Troutman Sanders	11/17/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Marzo, Brandon	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	11/17/2017	\$ 1,500.00		
Eaton	Edwards, Robert	Partner, Troutman Sanders	11/18/2017		\$ 1,000.00	
Eaton	Hobbs, Terry	Consultant, Hobbs and Associates	11/21/2017	\$ 3,000.00		
Eaton	Shanta, Paul	EVP and General Counsel, Southern Company Gas	11/22/2017	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Woodridge, Drew	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	11/27/2017	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Schiller, Frank	Partner, Troutman Sanders	11/29/2017		\$ 1,500.00	
Eaton	Fuller, Judith	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	11/30/2017	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Fuller, James	President, MEAG	12/1/2017	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Gree, Kevin	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	12/1/2017	\$ 1,500.00		

Candidate	Contributor	Occupation/Employer	Date	Tier 1	Tier 2	Comments
Eaton	Bond, James	Executive, Public Service Telephone	12/3/2017	\$ 2,000.00		
Eaton	Campbell, Margaret	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	12/3/2017		\$ 250.00	
Eaton	Forsyth, Mary Lou	President, Darien Telephone	12/8/2017	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Bottone, James	Director, Walton EMC	1/3/2018	\$ 400.00		
Eaton	Cardozo, Freddy	VP, Gas South	1/3/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Greiner, Kevin	President, Gas South	1/3/2018	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Hodges, Meredith	Government Affairs Manager, Gas South	1/3/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Milner, Stephen	CEO, Planters Telephone	1/3/2018	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	McGuire, Perry	Attorney, Smith Gambrell & Russell	4/23/2018		\$ 250.00	
Eaton	Palmer, Charles	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	5/16/2018	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Fail, Dorothea	Homemaker	7/12/2018	\$ 3,000.00		Actually owner of Fail Telecommunications
Eaton	Galloway, Newton	Attorney, Galloway and Lyndall	8/6/2018	\$ 1,000.00		Represents telecom interests before the Commission
Eaton	Rossi, Charles	Executive, Liberty Utilitie	8/12/2018	\$ 150.00		
Eaton	Dahlberg, AW	Retired	8/15/2018		\$ 1,000.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power/Southern Company.
Eaton	Haynes, LJ	Retired	8/17/2018		\$ 500.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power/Southern Company.
Eaton	Linginfelter, Hank	Executive, Atlanta Gas and Light	8/17/2018	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Ratcliffe, David	Retired	8/17/2018		\$ 1,000.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power/Southern Company.
Eaton	Ussery, Gene	Retired	8/17/2018		\$ 200.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power/Southern Company.

Candidate	Contributor	Occupation/Employer	Date	Tier 1	Tier 2	Comments
Eaton	Barrs, Craig	Retired	8/20/2018		\$ 250.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power. Listed as Georgia Power executive in Tricia Pridemore's 1/2018 filing.
Eaton	Evenson, Douglas	Director, SCANA	9/11/2018	\$ 200.00		
Eaton	Erl, Philip	Executive, Ringgold Telephone Co.	9/12/2018	\$ 3,000.00		
Eaton	Rawson, Charles	VP, Atlanta Gas and Light	9/12/2018	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Weaver, David	VP, Southern Company Gas	9/12/2018	\$ 2,500.00		
Eaton	Cardozo, Freddy	VP, Gas South	9/13/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Greiner, Kevin	President, Gas South	9/13/2018	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Lyndall, Terri	Attorney, Galloway and Lyndall	9/13/2018	\$ 1,000.00		Represents telecom interests before the Commission
Eaton	Scott, Louise	Executive, Southern Company Gas	9/13/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Widner, Cofield	Executive, Southern Company Gas	9/13/2018	\$ 350.00		
Eaton	Wingo, Pat	Executive, AT&T	9/13/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Batson, Bryan	SVP, Southern Company Gas	9/17/2018	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Bond, Don	Retired	9/17/2018		\$ 2,500.00	Retired but ex-executive from Georgia Power/Southern Company.
Eaton	Bond, Jim	Pres. Public Service Telephone	9/17/2018	\$ 2,500.00		
Eaton	Heintzelman, Peter	CEO, Cobb EMC	9/17/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Hudson, John	Executive, Southern Company Gas	9/17/2018	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Marianos, Dean	Executive, Southern Company Gas	9/17/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Newsome, Brett	Director, SCANA	9/17/2018	\$ 250.00		
Eaton	Reese, Elizabeth	EVP and CFP, Southern Company Gas	9/17/2018	\$ 1,000.00		
Eaton	Sutton, Jack	SVP, Southern Natural Gas	9/17/2018	\$ 1,000.00		

Candidate	Contributor	Occupation/Employer	Date	Tier 1	Tier 2	Comments
Eaton	Devlin, George	VP, SCANA	9/18/2018	\$ 500.00		
Eaton	Highsmith, Robert	Attorney, Holland & Knight	9/18/2018	\$ 6,600.00		Represents regulated telecoms before the Commission.
Eaton	Hobbs, Terry	Consultant, Hobbs and Associates	9/18/2018	\$ 6,600.00		Registered lobbyist for regulated entities before the Commission
Eaton	Marzo, Brandon	Attorney, Troutman Sanders	9/18/2018	\$ 250.00		Represents regulated entities before the Commission.
<b>Totals:</b>				<b>\$ 64,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,450.00</b>	