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TEXAS ENERGY POVERTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUSTIN, Texas. – Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute (TEPRI), a non-profit that works to address the root causes of energy and fuel poverty, announced the selection of Dana Harmon as its new executive director. Harmon will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for execution of TEPRI's mission to collect actionable data that partners can utilize to mitigate the energy costs of low-income consumers across Texas. The selection was made based on a statewide executive search process overseen by TEPRI's Board of Directors.

"We are very pleased to announce this appointment," reported Mike Stockard, Director – Energy Efficiency, Oncor Electric Delivery Company and TEPRI Board Chair. "Dana brings leadership and passion for our mission, and we're confident she will be a strong steward engaging the community, our membership, and industry stakeholders to meet the energy needs of low-income Texans."

"Most people think of energy and fuel poverty as an issue in less economically developed countries, but this is also a problem right here in Texas - and it's growing. This is why I was drawn to TEPRI and our mission," says Harmon. "Together with our partners, we aim to understand and help address the burden of energy costs for low-income consumers."

Harmon's resume includes over 13 years of leadership and management experience in the energy and consumer products industries. She brings experience from two prior start-ups leading technology commercialization, marketing, and business development functions as well as prior experience with

project management and operations. Harmon earned a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

In Texas today, approximately 37% of households live below 200% of the federal poverty guideline. That is less than \$47,000 per year for a family of four. Low-income households in some parts of Texas pay 12-28% of their gross monthly income on home energy costs compared to 4% for the average household. Given demographic forecasts for Texas over the next 20 years, this picture is likely to get worse. That's why industry stakeholders have begun to coalesce in order to work smarter on behalf of this customer segment.

TEPRI works with member companies, foundations, academia, government, NGOs and partnering research institutes and non-profits to advance the collective knowledge about low-income consumers and their relationship to energy.

Currently, TEPRI's members include Oncor, the State's largest transmission and distribution utility; CPS Energy, the largest municipal utility in the nation; El Paso Electric Company, a multi-state utility; CenterPoint Energy, a large transmission, distribution and gas services utility; PowerFin Partners, a Texas based solar provider; City Lights Group, a strategic consulting firm for social impact ventures; the South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER); and the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA),

TEPRI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Austin that launched in March 2016.

To learn more about TEPRI's mission, leadership, and specific goals for 2016, please visit: www.txenergypoverty.org. You can also sign up for membership on the website.

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