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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND PARTNERS WITH TEPRI FOR LASTING ENERGY SOLUTIONS

AUSTIN, Texas. March 23, 2017: Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has joined the Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute (TEPRI) as a partner and is supporting their initiative to study Texas' low-income communities and their relationships to energy.

TEPRI supports EDF's commitment to creating solutions for the planet that also carry economic benefits. Lenae Shirley, Senior Director, Technology Innovation and Market Adoption at EDF said, "Low-income communities spend a greater portion of their income on utility bills and disproportionately breathe polluted air. Fortunately, expanding access to energy efficiency and clean, distributed energy resources (like rooftop and community solar) creates savings and minimizes costs, while cutting pollution and creating local jobs. We look forward to working with TEPRI to ensure everyone can benefit from the clean energy economy."

Executive Director Dana Harmon describes the need for TEPRI's mission in Texas: **"High energy burdens can lead to significant negative non-energy effects. The population-wide benefits to reducing energy poverty are widespread, ranging from economic to health, job creation, and environmental. We are honored to be able to work with EDF to further this important work."**

EDF joins TEPRI as a nonpartisan organization with over 50 years experience in their multidisciplinary approach to finding practical and lasting solutions to the most serious environmental problems facing the planet. This includes climate, oceans, and ecosystems, but also encompasses health and energy. TEPRI and EDF align in their core values of respect, innovation, optimism and integrity.

TEPRI is a diverse collaborative of energy market participants working to improve the quality of life for low-income Texans through energy which was founded by former PUC Chairman Becky Klein in 2015. They believe that the energy solutions of tomorrow should include those that fall below the poverty line - approximately 37% of all Texan households live below 200% of the federal poverty guideline (\$48,600/family of 4).

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TEPRI (www.txenergypoverty.org) is an association of leaders in the power market who work to inspire lasting energy solutions that increase comfort, reduce strain, and put critical dollars back in the hands of low-income families. By studying and sharing what is working across the country, the Institute spreads best practices in energy conservation, efficiency, and reducing energy burdens. Members of TEPRI are leveraging resources to spearhead innovative and in-depth research at the nexus of energy and poverty.