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### PRESS RELEASE

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### **PEOPLE'S COUNSEL ISSUES A REPORT ON ENERGY NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN MARYLAND**

People's Counsel Paula Carmody announced today the release of a detailed report on low-income households in the counties and Baltimore City throughout Maryland. This report was prepared at the request of the Office of People's Counsel (MD OPC) by APPRISE, a public policy research organization.<sup>1</sup>

APPRISE has collected and analyzed data on low-income households to better understand the energy affordability issues faced by these households. The data, findings and recommendations will be used to evaluate and enhance Maryland's existing energy assistance and low-income energy efficiency programs.

"We have some very good programs in Maryland to assist households with their energy needs," said Ms. Carmody. "This is the result of the efforts of many agencies, organizations and individuals who work daily with households in need. However, we know that we reach only a fraction of households who could benefit from existing programs. We also know that even with these programs, energy bills remain unaffordable for many households."

Ms. Carmody stated that her goal in commissioning the report is "to help all interested agencies, communities and individuals to evaluate and enhance Maryland's existing programs to best meet the energy needs of our low-income households in every part of our State."

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<sup>1</sup> Applied Public Policy Research Institute for Study and Evaluation (APPRISE).

The report is available on the OPC website at [www.opc.maryland.gov](http://www.opc.maryland.gov). Questions or comments about the report may be submitted by email to [DLInfo.OPC@maryland.gov](mailto:DLInfo.OPC@maryland.gov) or by phone to 410-767-8150 or 800-207-4055.

*The Maryland Office of the People's Counsel is an independent state agency which represents residential consumers of regulated utility services including electric, gas, telecommunications, and water services, before the Maryland Public Service Commission, other state and federal agencies and the Courts.*

*xxxx End of OPC Press Release xxxx*