



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Christina O’Keeffe Hired as Executive Director of OAQDA

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) Board has selected Christina O’Keeffe to serve as its Executive Director, replacing Chad Smith, who accepted a position out of state earlier this year.

O’Keeffe is a recognized energy and air quality expert with more than 15 years of leadership experience at the local, state and national levels. She currently serves as the Director of Energy and Air Quality for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and will assume her new position in late October 2018.

“We are delighted to have Christina lead the Authority in our next chapter. She brings important public policy and energy leadership experience to enhance our work with business and government entities as we work to advance the OAQDA mission of fostering and preserving clean air in Ohio,” Michael H. Keenan, OAQDA Board Chair, said.

As Executive Director, O’Keeffe’s duties will include, but not be limited to, fulfilling OAQDA’s mission and strategic goals as an independent, non-regulatory agency to provide financial and technical assistance for projects that contribute to cleaner air. She will oversee all financial transactions, including bond note and issuances, manage loan and grant programs, and develop new programs to ensure the environmental infrastructure financing needs of the State are met and to maximize the use of OAQDA’s financing.

“I am honored to join OAQDA and to build upon its long history of success in assisting businesses, governments and universities in financing clean air facilities,” O’Keeffe said. “I look forward to working with the Authority members, staff and its many partners to leverage the assets of OAQDA in order to advance the economic and environmental needs of the State.”

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O’Keeffe brings a wealth of knowledge in sustainability, economic development, policy and financing. In her role at MORPC, she managed annually \$6 million in federal, state and private funds for planning, policy and technical services within the transportation, commercial and residential sectors. Her most notable accomplishments include creating the energy planning office as part of a core service for MORPC, which is among the first U.S. metropolitan planning organizations to maintain this expertise; partnering with gas and electric utilities to develop the Local Government Energy Partnership; and, leading the region’s air quality monitoring and forecasting program in coordination with the U.S. EPA.

From 2008 – 2013, O’Keeffe managed the State Energy Office within the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). In that capacity, she led the investment of \$300 million in energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean coal and alternative fuels. O’Keeffe also established new financing programs such as \$50 million for the Energy Loan Fund and \$18 million in loan loss reserves that spurred new regional energy loan programs at local port authorities throughout Ohio.

O’Keeffe holds a B.S. degree in natural resources and a minor in economics from The Ohio State University. She is a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional, trained as a Six Sigma Black Belt, and is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Columbus. O’Keeffe is active in her community by serving on her local township zoning commission, an active member of the family advisory council for Nationwide Children’s Hospital and treasurer of the Wiedemann-Steiner Syndrome Foundation.

A native of rural Medina County, Ohio, O’Keeffe lives in Columbus with her husband, Ryan, and two sons.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.