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**TEXANS FOR FREE ENTERPRISE EXPANDS LEADERSHIP WITH FORMER TEXAS
ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS CEO BILL HAMMOND**

*Hammond to Serve as Executive Director of New Advocacy Organization,
Lead Effort to Bring Competition to the Title Insurance Market*

AUSTIN, TEXAS—Former Texas Association of Business CEO Bill Hammond will join the newly launched Texans for Free Enterprise (TFE), a statewide policy advocacy organization created to encourage Texas lawmakers to embrace public policy that advances continued job creation, investment and competition across Texas.

Hammond will serve as Executive Director of TFE, managing the organization's signature legislative issue for the current session, title insurance reform.

"We're thrilled to have Bill Hammond join TFE's leadership as we work to advance and defend free enterprise in Texas," said Doug Deason, chairman of Texans for Free Enterprise and a Dallas-based investor and philanthropist. "Bill has been in the trenches, working to defend policies that spur job creation, lower costs for doing business and drive new investment in our state."

"Texans for Free Enterprise's core mission is at the heart of my professional career, as a former legislator, small business owner and advocate for Texas businesses and our workforce," said Hammond.

TFE's primary legislative objective this session is the passage of much-needed, consumer-friendly reforms to create a well-regulated, competitive title insurance market in Texas that will lower costs and help bring Texas in line with most other states.

“We’ve seen the drawbacks and costs of a one-size-fits-all approach to title insurance in Texas. It is anti-consumer, costly and unnecessary,” said Hammond. “Homebuyers and businesses overpay hundreds of millions of dollars in title insurance fees in order to prop up an oligarchy of interests that are not required to compete in the marketplace.

“The system was designed and defended by the very industry that profits most from regulations that limit buyers’ choices and imposes state-mandated rates that limit competition and prohibit discounts.”

[Recently-released research by Dr. David Eaton at The University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs](#) found that while title insurance prices vary widely from state to state, Texas consistently ranks among the highest title insurance rates in the country. Texans pay hundreds of millions of dollars more for title insurance than do consumers in other states like New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

In addition to Hammond, Texans for Free Enterprise brings unique experience in consumer advocacy and insurance regulation with former Public Insurance Counsel Rod Bordelon and Cyndi Taylor Krier, a former county judge, state senator, university regent and executive with USAA. TFE’s Board of Directors includes Doug Deason, Doug Chesnut, and Justin Keener.

Learn more about Texans for Free Enterprise and join the organization’s efforts to bring common-sense, pro-consumer reform to title insurance by visiting www.txenterprise.com or follow @TXEnterprise on Twitter.

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