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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Corn Belt Energy crews continue to assist in the wake of Hurricane Michael***

**BLOOMINGTON, IL — Tuesday, October 16, 2018** — Corn Belt Energy crews are continuing to help our cooperative family in restoring power to members in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

Corn Belt Energy crews arrived at Lumbee River EMC in Red Springs, N.C., on October 11. Outages at Lumbee River EMC were restored overnight, and crews were directed to report to Wake EMC in Wake Forest, N.C., on the morning of October 12. After assisting Wake EMC with power restoration efforts, crews headed to Sneads, Fla., to aid West Florida Electric, an electric cooperative headquartered in Graceville, Fla., with offices in Bonifay and Sneads, Fla., West Florida Electric serves 28,317 members in a four county service area.

Upon arrival at West Florida Electric on Sunday, October 14, Corn Belt Energy crew members reported approximately 90% of the co-op power lines were on the ground. Heavy tree damage and extremely narrow sometimes impassable roads were also noted.

Corn Belt Energy crews are among over 250 people onsite assisting with restoration efforts. Crews are working 16 hour days in extremely hot temperatures. Accommodations for line crews are in tents which include cots for sleeping. Additionally, crews receive breakfast and supper at this location and are provided a box lunch to take with them to the field. Semi-trailers are also available for showers and laundry.

“Corn Belt Energy has a long history of lending a helping hand to its cooperative peers in trying times,” stated Kacy Wickenhauser, Corn Belt Energy Vice President of Utility Services, “and our thoughts and prayers are with our crews as well as everyone impacted by Hurricane Michael.”





Currently, power has been restored to 4,473 West Florida Electric members bringing the total number of members who now have power restored to 10,894. At this time, 17,423 members throughout the co-op's service area remain without power. According to West Florida EMC's website, the hardest hit areas of their service territory, which includes northern Calhoun County and portions of Jackson County, which sustained immense damage and it could be as long as thirty days before power is restored to members in those areas.

### **About Corn Belt Energy**

Started in 1938 to bring electricity to rural Central Illinois, Corn Belt Energy Corporation now distributes electricity to over 36,000 households and businesses throughout 18 counties. One of the largest cooperatives in Illinois, Corn Belt Energy employs 85 people, maintains over 5,000 miles of line, and distributes electricity from the Wabash Valley Power Association, a generation and transmission cooperative based in Indiana. As a not-for-profit energy cooperative, Corn Belt Energy is owned by the members it serves and is committed to providing reliable, affordable energy. Governed by 13 directors who are themselves residential members, Corn Belt also supports energy efficiency, education, and safety initiatives. Learn more at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

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