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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 26, 2004

### **STATE WARNS AGAINST FRAUDULENT FDIC EMAILS**

BOISE, IDAHO – Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance is warning Idaho residents about a phony FDIC email being sent into the state. The email states that, due to suspected violations of the USA PATRIOT Act in the recipient's bank account, the FDIC has suspended deposit insurance on the bank account at the direction of Department of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, and in cooperation with other federal and state government agencies. The email then informs the recipient that insurance on the account will be suspended until personal identity and account information can be verified. The consumer is threatened that if personal information is not provided, account history will be sent to the FBI, and government officials may visit the consumer.

Gee warns consumers and financial institutions that receive the fraudulent email to NOT access the link provided in the email and to NOT provide any personal information as directed. "This email appears to be a blatant attempt to steal personal identity information, including information that could be used to access a person's bank account," said Gee.

The FDIC has also issued a warning that the email is a fraudulent attempt to obtain personal information, and is being investigated by the FBI. Consumers are asked to report receipt of the email, or similar attempts to obtain information, to the FDIC by sending information to [alert@fdic.gov](mailto:alert@fdic.gov). The FDIC's press release may be accessed at <http://www.fdic.gov/news/news/press/2004/pr0604.html>.

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*Department of Finance press releases and other information are available on the Internet via the world wide web at <http://www.idahofinance.com> and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000, or toll-free in Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.*

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