



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE JOINS INFORMATION-SHARING CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE BANK SECRECY ACT ENFORCEMENT**

Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today signed documents outlining a protocol for sharing information with federal agencies to streamline enforcement of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Gee said, "These agreements accomplish something that is unprecedented." The documents highlight the recognition by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) of the vital role that Idaho plays to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing through financial institutions and money service businesses (MSBs).

Gee said, "They are two-way information sharing agreements between our state and federal entities that will help us all better utilize resources in our mission to ensure that the financial companies we supervise are fulfilling the anti-money laundering requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act. The agreements provide the mechanism for increased communication, coordination and enforcement, leading to more effective compliance for banks and MSBs."

According to Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) Chairman John Allison, CSBS along with the Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA) and the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS), has been working diligently over the past several months with FinCEN to produce the model memorandum of understanding to achieve a coordinated approach by leveraging intelligence. Besides the memorandum, CSBS and federal banking agencies have drafted a letter of agreement providing for more efficient and effective processing of jointly-held information to FinCEN. Allison is Mississippi Commissioner of Banking and Consumer Finance.

Allison commented that CSBS's goal is to obtain signatures from all 50 states and the U.S. territories to cement and begin this working relationship with FinCEN.

"We commend the Idaho Department of Finance for joining this vital state-federal partnership," he said. "Not only will these agreements provide specific analysis reports to the state regulators, but also FinCEN will be receiving and analyzing additional data provided by the states. As each agency will be receiving more information through this

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process, BSA examinations should be more efficient and supervisory agencies will have the ability to provide better guidance to the industry.”

The Department of Finance is a state regulatory agency charged with chartering or licensing over 126,000 businesses and individuals in 21 financial services related industries doing business in Idaho. Industries regulated by the Department that will be specifically covered by these agreements include state chartered banks, savings banks or thrift institutions, credit unions and money transmitters. The Department’s examinations and regulatory oversight will include compliance with the Federal Bank Secrecy Act and other anti-money laundering and terrorist financing efforts.

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