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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 6, 2006

Investors Warned Of Possible Fraudulent Internet Business

Firm Likely Operating In Multiple Unlicensed Capacities

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today announced the Department's investigation of Strong Funds, Inc., an apparent financial services and money transmission firm that claims to operate from Meridian, Idaho. Gee warned Idahoans, as well as other U.S. and foreign individuals that might be approached by the firm, that the company may be operating as an unlicensed stock brokerage business and as an unlicensed money transmitter from an undisclosed location.

According to the Strong Fund website (<http://www.s-funds.com/about.php>), the company is:

“the largest owner, operator and franchiser of financial services in the U.S. ...serves millions of customers worldwide -- including individuals, institutions, and businesses -- through independent agents and brokers, financial institutions, and ...more than 100,000 registered broker/dealers sell The company's trusted products. ...Strong Funds offers convenient private financial services, including bank transfers cashing, check cashing, money order sales, Western Union and bill payment services.”

Gee noted several serious red flags associated with the suspicious website and firm:

1. Strong Funds, Inc. is not incorporated in Idaho as represented in the website.

SECURITIES BUREAU

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2. Strong Funds is not licensed in Idaho to transact any business as a securities issuer or broker-dealer.
3. Strong Funds is not licensed in Idaho to conduct a money transmission business.
4. Strong Funds does not appear to be in compliance with federal Money Services Business registration rules.
5. The Idaho address allegedly used by the company is an area residence unrelated to Strong Funds.
6. The address provided for the Strong Funds website, web developer and administrative contact is an address similar to the Meridian location, but in the State of Maine.
7. Strong Funds is not affiliated with Western Union as represented on the website.

“What we appear to have is a front that could be used for a variety of fraudulent schemes, including on-line auction fraud, investment fraud, as well as employment frauds”, said Gee. “Anyone thinking of doing business with this firm should be extremely skeptical until the firm’s credentials can be established and it can be verified that the company is complying with federal and state money transmission regulations, as well as securities laws and regulations.”

Any Idaho residents having information about the firm or its promoters are asked to contact the Department of Finance at (208) 332-8080. This website is not associated with the mutual fund complex known as the Strong Funds.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet via the worldwide web at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8080 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.