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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Boise, Idaho . . .

**IT'S NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK!
STOP – THINK – CHECK IT OUT - BEFORE YOU SIGN**

The Idaho Department of Finance joins the Better Business Bureau Northwest and other state and federal agencies in ushering in National Consumer Protection Week – March 5-11, 2017.

The department reminds Idahoans that it licenses and regulates a wide range of financial institutions – reputable businesses that want to provide a valuable service to Idahoans. The department's message to consumers: "Take one more step before signing on the dotted line – check out the company! Don't do business with a rip-off artist whose goal is to separate you from your money."

The Department of Finance offers these important tips:

- Check out your lender to verify it is licensed to do business in Idaho before you sign. The department's website at <http://finance.idaho.gov> lists licensed lenders, mortgage brokers, collection agencies and more.
- Read your contract before you sign. When you sign on the dotted line you are saying, "I have read and I understand the terms of my contract."
- Do not pay an upfront fee for a loan! Any upfront fee that the lender wants to collect before granting the loan is a cue to walk away, especially if you're told it's for "insurance," "processing," or just "paperwork."
- Know the warning signs of fraud: High pressure sales and easy money mean walk away!

Finally - When in doubt, say "No." Trust your instincts!

Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.

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