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NEWS RELEASE

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Y2K FINANCIAL CHECKLIST FOR CONSUMERS OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH "FACTS ON SAVING AND INVESTING" CAMPAIGN WEEK

Boise, Idaho Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced today the release of a "Y2K Financial Checklist" for Idaho consumers. This checklist is offered as part of the "Facts on Saving & Investing Campaign" week (April 25-May 1). The Campaign is designed to stress the importance of educating the public about saving, investing and avoiding financial fraud. State and federal financial institution regulators believe that banks, credit unions, savings institutions, and payment systems are making impressive preparations for the Year 2000. The regulators also believe that customer awareness is an important component of these preparations. To help consumers prepare for the century date change, the regulators have developed a Y2K checklist for consumers.

Here are a few of the suggestions included in the checklist for consumers:

- Find out what your financial institution is doing to address consumer concerns about Y2K.
- Keep good records of your financial transactions, especially for the last few months of 1999 and until you get several statements in 2000.
- Check transaction receipts and save them to compare against your statement.
- Remember all your payment options--checks (personal, traveler's, and cashier's), credit cards, debit cards, money orders, ATMs and tellers--in the event that one doesn't work as planned.
- Make reasonable decisions based on solid information about whether to withdraw more money than you normally would on any 3-day weekend. Don't put yourself at risk of being robbed or losing valuable interest payments. If you desire some additional funds, consider traveler's checks as a safer alternative than cash.

Remember that the safest place for your money is in an insured financial institution!

- Be on guard against scams that play on Y2K fears in order to obtain personal financial information or urge the removal or transfer of your funds from existing savings and investments for fraudulent purposes.

Gee stated, "It is very important that consumers separate fact from fiction on Y2K financial issues to avoid or minimize potential problems associated with Y2K. The Y2K financial checklist for consumers is a tool to help Idahoans prepare for the century date change." For more information, contact the Department of Finance at 700 W. State Street, P. O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0031.