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NEWS RELEASE

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"FACTS ON SAVING AND INVESTING CAMPAIGN" COMES TO IDAHO Governor Batt Proclaims Week Dedicated to Investor Education

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin M. Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance today announced the kick-off of the "Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign." The unprecedented grassroots campaign, launched by a coalition of government agencies, business and consumer organizations, seeks to motivate Americans to get the facts they need to save and invest wisely, and achieve financial security. Securities regulators from twenty-one nations in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean will also offer investor education programs in their countries during the campaign which runs from March 29 to April 4, 1998.

The campaign's slogan is "Get the facts. It's your money. It's your future." "Financial security starts when you take personal responsibility for your financial well-being. If you pay attention to your money and take charge, you're more likely to gain financial security," Gee said. Idaho Governor Phil Batt has issued a proclamation designating the week as "Facts on Saving and Investing Week." In his proclamation, the Governor cited the importance of educating the public about saving, investing and avoiding securities fraud.

Idaho regulators will be distributing investor education materials to senior centers and public libraries throughout the state. Among the materials being sent are the "Investor Bill of Rights," the new consumer investment book "How to be an Informed Investor" and the new video "What Con Artists Don't Want You to Know."

Gee also urged consumers to determine their financial needs in retirement during this week. He encouraged people to fill out the one-page "Ballpark Estimate" that helps people compute what they need to save and invest each year to meet their retirement needs. The "Ballpark Estimate" is available on www.asec.org or by contacting the Department.

In addition to investor education materials, the Department provides licensing and complaint information about investment professionals and registration information for securities offerings. Consumers can reach the Department toll-free within Idaho at 888-346-3378 or at (208) 332-8004.