

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Peter C. Hildreth 271-3561

Concord, NH – Bank Commissioner Peter C. Hildreth, today, advised New Hampshire residents to beware of telephone solicitations from third parties claiming to represent the consumer's financial institution and offering credit cards for a prepaid fee.

Commissioner Hildreth said, "We have become aware that some credit union members have received solicitations by telephone, offering a credit card for payment of a fee in excess of \$200. The caller claimed to be representing the credit union, when in fact the caller had no relationship with the credit union whatsoever."

The New Hampshire Banking Department urges anyone receiving such a call to contact their financial institution to confirm the relationship, if any, prior to forwarding money in response to such an offer.

Commissioner Hildreth further advised that, "Advance fee loan scams are becoming more and more prevalent. I can't emphasize strongly enough how important it is to be careful and investigate anyone who asks you to send them money. Before you send them a dime, make sure you know who they are and that they are a legitimate business."

Consumers are also cautioned not to release personal financial information such as account numbers and social security numbers to unknown persons.

If you have received such a call, please contact your financial institution, the New Hampshire Banking Department at (603)271-3561 or the New Hampshire Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Bureau at (603)271-3641.

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