PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mississippi Public Service Commissioners Remind Consumers to be Vigilant of Scams During Holiday Season

JACKSON, MS (NOVEMBER 20, 2024)— The Mississippi Public Service Commission has been made aware of a scam targeting businesses, especially LLCs, who are required to submit an annual report to the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office each fiscal year. The scam consists of a misleading mailer sent by a private entity called C.F.S. In the mailer, the company offers to prepare 2025 annual reports for a \$125.00 fee. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office has previously shared warnings of this scam.

It's important for both businesses and consumers to stay alert during the holiday season, as scams tend to increase. The Commissioners highlight the need for vigilance to protect against fraudulent activities.

Always check the legitimacy of any calls, emails, or messages claiming to be from companies or government entities requesting payment, and never share personal or financial information over the phone or online unless you are sure of the recipient's identity. Be wary of red flags, including high-pressure tactics, threats, or offers that seem too good to be true. Scammers often play on emotions, especially during the holidays.

Ensure that everyone in your household or business is aware of common scams and knows how to respond. Staying informed and cautious can help protect you and your community during the festive season. Businesses may report deceptive or misleading solicitations to the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline is 1-800-281-4418.

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