

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/13/05
HB 110



CONSUMER DATA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Empowering Economic Opportunity

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January 12, 2005

The Honorable Diane Rice
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State Legislature of Montana
Helena, MT 59601

Re: H.B. 110

Dear Madame Chair Rice:

I write on behalf of the Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA) to express some concerns with operations of H.B. 110 as it impacts consumer reporting agencies.

Founded in 1906, the Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA) is the international trade association that represents more than 400 consumer data companies. CDIA members represent the nation's leading institutions in credit reporting, mortgage reporting, check verification, fraud prevention, risk management, employment reporting, tenant screening and collection services.

Background on the Credit Reporting Anti-Fraud Measures

For over a decade the credit reporting industry has been a leader in the innovation and implementation of measures designed to prevent against identity fraud in the first place and to remediate against identity fraud that has occurred. Some of the measures put in place by CDIA members include:

- A consumer's ability to block the appearance of fraudulent items on his or her credit report with the presentment of a police report.
- A consumer's ability to place a security alert on his or her credit report on the mere suspicion of fraud.
- A consumer's need to only make one phone call to one national consumer reporting agency to report fraud as the one consumer reporting agency communicates that information to the other national consumer reporting agencies.

Many of CDIA's voluntary initiatives were incorporated in the Fair Credit Reporting Act with the passage of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. Much of the new body of law went in to effect on Dec. 1, 2004.

Conclusion

Identity fraud is a serious and invasive crime which is worthy of legislative and law enforcement attention. We hope the recommendations we've suggested regarding protecting the integrity of the passport program will be considered and we look forward to continued dialogue regarding selected concerns we have with the bill in its current form.

Thank you for taking a leadership role in helping victims of identity theft and to consider our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Chantele Artman
Manager, Government Relations