



EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3.30.07
SB 121

March 30, 2007

TO: Chairman Lake and Members of the House Taxation Committee

FROM: Jim Madison, volunteer advocate, AARP Montana

RE: **Support of SB 121, Prohibit sale of tax information**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jim Madison here today as a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana to testify in support of SB 121. As a matter of background, I worked for the state Department of Revenue for thirty years and have been involved in tax preparation for many years.

Tax returns contain very sensitive information about a person like social security numbers, sources of income, number of children, medical expenses, marital status, and so on. Protecting the privacy of this information is paramount to most people. We assume that tax preparers handle their personal information with great respect for its privacy. Unfortunately, databases of consumer information are very valuable, providing a strong incentive for tax preparers to sell consumer information.

In today's world, there are an abundance of databases for marketing purposes and certainly, there is no compelling reason that tax return information needs to be made available for marketing. In addition, databases of personal tax information are a gold mine for identity thieves and marketing this information will only add to the proliferation of the horrible crime of identity theft.

I am giving you a very informative article on this topic, by MSNBC reporter Bob Sullivan. Please take the time to read it.

In the interest of privacy of personal information, tax preparers should not be allowed to sell personal information. I urge you to support SB 121.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole.